

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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ABE MEETS MRS MARCOS, GIVES VIEWS TO DIET

OW021315 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 2 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told the Diet Saturday Japan hopes the political and economic climate in the Philippines will be stabilized. Abe made the remark in response to questions by opposition socialist Osamu Yatabe at a Budget Committee meeting of the House of Councillors. Abe said the political and economic situation in the Philippines is not stable.

"I don't think the health of President (Ferdinand) Marcos is so bad, but the country has been plagued by upheavals since the assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino. Japan hopes the political and economic situation in the Philippines will be stabilized," Abe said. He emphasized that the stabilization of the country is important not only for Japan but for the whole of Southeast Asia.

Abe said he expressed Japan's serious concern about the situation in the Philippines during a meeting with Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos Saturday. Mrs. Marcos, who arrived in Tokyo Friday on her way home from a visit to the Soviet Union, conferred with Abe at the Foreign Ministry Saturday. She told him the situation in the Philippines is not so bad as may be thought overseas and asked Japan for aid to improve the people's welfare and the country's economy, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Yatabe demanded that the government halt aid to the Philippines, saying Japanese assistance is used to bolster the Marcos government. Abe said he is aware of criticism voiced by some people in the Philippines, but the Japanese Government decides on aid to the Philippines in the hope that it will contribute to the improvement of the people's welfare. The Japanese Government pledged 49.5 billion yen in October this year to help promote socio-economic projects in the Philippines.

Japan also provided 55.5 billion yen in loans to the Philippines last year despite protests by anti-Marcos groups. Abe denied Yatabe's claims that Japan has continued its aid to the Philippines under pressure from the United States. Japan is helping the Philippines to atone for damage it caused to the nation during World War II, and its aid is not intended to support any particular regime in the country, Abe said. He promised that the government will try to make sure its aid is used effectively to improve the people's welfare and the country's economy.

Yatabe said major components shipped to the Philippines by Toyota Motor Corp. for production of small land cruisers are used for military purposes and this violates the government's standing policy of banning exports of weapons.

Keiichi Murata, minister of international trade and industry, replied that the government has no information about the military use of such vehicles. He said he would order an immediate investigation. Toyota, Japan's top automaker, supplies main components, such as engines and transmissions, to Delta Motor Co. of the Philippines to manufacture mini-land cruisers under a license agreement between the two companies. The vehicles are not sold on the open market and are used by the military in operations involving demonstrators and guerrillas.

JSP CHAIRMAN ISHIBASHI APPEALS FOR PARTY UNITY

OW020913 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 2 KYODO -- Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairman Masashi Ishibashi marked the party's 40th anniversary Saturday with an appeal for an end to intra-party strife and a call for the party to attract supporters beyond the nation's organized labor. "We don't have much time to spare," the JSP chairman told an audience of party faithful in a bid to convey the urgent need for the nation's main opposition party to improve its image.

Ishibashi's keynote speech highlighted the party's 40th anniversary celebrations at TOKYO's historic Hibiya Hall, where the JSP was founded 40 years ago right after the end of World War II. Ishibashi, who has been party chairman since September 1983, expressed his determination to obtain party endorsement for a pragmatic policy platform aimed at giving the JSP a chance to share power. In a candid admission of "shortcomings and weaknesses," Ishibashi cited continuous party bickering and over-reliance on the support of organized labor as among the major reasons for making the party what critics call a "perpetual" opposition party. Except for a brief period in 1947-48, the Socialists have never managed to unseat the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP), which has been in power continuously since 1955.

The gap in parliamentary strength has become so wide that the Socialist now openly call for a coalition with other moderate opposition parties rather than attempting to seek power on their own. As a political price for coalition, Ishibashi called for the party to accept "bold compromises" in policy matters. He urged the JSP to eschew ideology and base party policy on the realities of everyday life.

Ishibashi acknowledged criticism that the party's electoral support is too narrowly based and that the party tends to ignore the interests of nonunionized labor and small businessmen. "It has often been said that the JSP is the 'political aim' of Sohyo, Ishibashi noted, referring to the political support given to the party by Japan's biggest labor federation. "Such a misunderstanding is inevitable if we ignore the interests of nonunionized labor, farmers and the small businessman," he said. On the JSP's organizational strength, Ishibashi said the party is facing a crisis of membership, and urged all party members to recruit as many new members as possible. Despite its position as the top opposition party, the JSP, with 67,000 members, is only fourth in terms of membership -- behind the LDP, the Communist Party, Komeito and the breakaway Social Democratic Party. "It is true that reform has just begun, but there is a glimmer of light ahead of us," he said in calling on the party to support his leadership.

Nakasone Attends Celebration

OW011315 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 1 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone became the first leader of the conservative Liberal-Democratic Party Friday night to attend a celebration hosted by the opposition Japan Socialist Party. Nakasone was present for about four minutes at a JSP celebration marking the 40th anniversary of its founding. While he did not make any congratulatory speech at the function held at a downtown Tokyo hotel, Nakasone's visit was an unusual break with precedent. Nakasone was originally scheduled to be at the gathering sometime after 6 p.m. but did not show up until shortly before 8 p.m. as he had to stay in the Diet (parliament) because a meeting of the house of councillors budget committee was stalled over a SDP member's questions regarding the government's defense spending. The meeting adjourned without resolving the JSP lawmaker's question.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI MEETS JSP LEADERS

OW011305 Tokyo KYODO in English 1258 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 1 KYODO -- Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki held secret talks again with leaders of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) last month as proposed by the No. 1 opposition party, it was revealed Friday. JSP sources and labor leaders, confirmed the contact took place around October 25, and said opinions then exchanged included the possibility of Diet dissolution by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. Deputy JSP Chairman Masao Hori and Sanji Muto, representative of the biggest group in the party, who allegedly participated in the meeting with Suzuki deny the allegation. The informants said the behind-the-scenes meeting agreed that Prime Minister Nakasone is aiming at a buildup of Japan's military power and his defense stance is dangerous. Observers said they think the forming of an anti-Nakasone front was also discussed between Suzuki, who wants to realize an administration of former Chief Cabinet Secretary Kichi Miyazawa, and the JSP, which is groping for a liaison government with "conscientious" conservative forces. The former prime minister and the JSP were rumored to have held a similar meeting last August.

GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT U.S. ON NUCLEAR ACCORD

OW040901 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 4 KYODO -- The Japanese Government intends to agree with the United States on revision of a 17-year-old Japan-U.S. atomic power agreement pending a bilateral accord on the proposed U.S. package approval of Japanese plans to reprocess spent nuclear fuel to produce plutonium, government officials said Monday. The new Japanese policy will be explained at a meeting of Japanese and U.S. officials on atomic power policy, the 13th of its kind, to be held in Washington from November 13, the officials said. They said Japan will accept tightened U.S. controls on the transportation and reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel coming from Japanese atomic power stations and utilization of plutonium obtained through its reprocessing. The U.S. has asked Japan to agree to the "prior consent" principle in manufacturing uranium fuel enriched up to more than 20 percent rather than several percent for conventional atomic power reactors and in storing plutonium under the 1978 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, they said. They said the American demands are made in return for their proposal to adopt a "package consent" formula instead of the present system of seeking individual U.S. approval in advance, which is mandatory as Japanese electric power companies use uranium fuel enriched in the U.S. The proposed revision of the Japan-U.S. atomic power agreement will enable the Japanese utilities industry to operate its projected nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, more smoothly. Construction of the plant is expected to be started soon with consent of the local residents. Japan's first such plant is operating in Ibaraki Prefecture, north of Tokyo. At the Washington meeting, however, the government hopes to obtain U.S. concessions on their right to suspend unilaterally a package approval to be accorded Japan, the officials said.

2 EMBASSY STAFFERS IN BEIRUT RELEASED

OW030607 Tokyo KYODO in English 0531 GMT 3 Nov 85

[Text] Nicosia, Nov. 3 KYODO -- Two Japanese Embassy staff members in Beirut kidnapped October 29 were released late Saturday after negotiations between the kidnappers and a public security committee, the embassy said Sunday. An embassy driver and a clerk were kidnapped after they crossed the green line between East and West Beirut on their way to their office in the western section. Nothing is known about the kidnappers, but there have been many such incidents between Islamic and Christian groups in Beirut. The public security committee is run by a four-person group of Muslims and Christians, and has worked as a go-between in previous kidnappings.

STUDENTS' ARREST AT U.S. OFFICE IN SEOUL REPORTED

SK040910 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Text] This is news which has just come in. According to an AP news report from Seoul, students of seven universities in Seoul who occupied the Seoul office of the American Chamber of Commerce waged a sit-in in the office for 2 hours until 1300 this afternoon, while resisting violent suppression. Even though the students demanded a meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Seoul and others, the Chon Tu-hwan military hooligans, instigated the U.S. imperialist aggressors, committed brutal violence in suppressing the students by sending the police into the office. The police rascals penetrated into the office, where the students were waging a sit-in, by breaking entrance doors and windows which were locked inside, after shooting water into the office with fire hoses. The police rascals indiscriminately committed violence against the students and dragged them out of the office after arresting them.

The news agency reported that blood was running from the faces of some protesters who were dragged out of the Choson Hotel. It has been reported that while being transported by the police bus and shedding blood, the students defiantly and repeatedly shouted such slogans as "Let us overthrow the military dictatorship?" and "Let us struggle for democracy." The students' struggle of occupying the Seoul office of the American Chamber of Commerce shows that anti-U.S. sentiment is continuously growing among the South Korean youths, students, and people. This makes the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the puppet clique tremble with anxiety.

NODONG SINMUN ON CONFRONTATION, INSINCERE TALKS

SK020840 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2148 GMT 1 Nov 85

[NODONG SINMUN 2 November Special Article: "Confrontation and Dialogue Cannot Be Compatible" -- KCNA identifies this as a commentary]

[Text] Today, economic talks and Red Cross talks have been held and parliamentary talks are scheduled between the North and South. The talks and contact arranged between the two sides for the purposes of restoring ties in the economic and humanitarian fields and alleviating tension in the country are to eliminate the distrust created by national division and to achieve national reconciliation and unity. It is our consistent stand to improve and develop relations between the North and South and to open the road leading to national reunification through contact and dialogue.

The economic cooperation and exchange between the North and South, the meeting and reunion of separated family members and relatives, and the alleviation of tension do not conflict with the interests of the South side. The South side, too, has expressed its will to discontinue antagonism and confrontation and to improve relations with us. This year, reflecting our stand and the South side's will, the North and South have held economic talks on four occasions, full-fledged Red Cross talks on two occasions. In the course of this dialogue, a series of issues were discussed, and agreement was reached on some of them. Since the two sides have held dialogues recognizing the need for mutual cooperation, if they hold negotiations from a sincere stand there will be no difficulty in resolving problems presented and in implementing matters agreed upon. However, in light of the period of time that has elapsed, we cannot say that the dialogue between the two sides has progressed satisfactorily.

As for the economic talks and the Red Cross talks, 1 year has passed since the first contacts were initiated. However, the problems already agreed upon between the two sides have not reached a phase where an official agreement regarding them has been adopted. With regard to the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks, even agenda items have not been decided as yet.

Such a failure in the progress of the dialogue is not a result of differences in technical and practical opinions between the two sides, but is due mainly to the unwarranted attitude on the part of the South side, which has utilized dialogue as a means of anti-communist propaganda and confrontation against us.

The South side's unwarranted act of showing enmity toward the other party to dialogue and creating artificial obstacles to dialogue was shown more extensively right after the mutual visits of the Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups, which were conducted in accordance with an agreement between the two sides.

Officials who visited Pyongyang, leading members of the Red Cross art troupe and home-visiting group of the South side spoke well of our warm hospitality and compatriotic love and their impressions while staying in Pyongyang. However, after returning to Seoul, they suddenly changed their attitude and started to conduct vicious anticommunist propaganda and slandered us. The South side's propaganda slandering and defaming us shows that it is not interested in restoring the severed national ties through dialogue and in achieving the country's reunification and that it is abusing the dialogue, contacts, and mutual visits as a propaganda stage for inciting antagonism against us and for maintaining the state of confrontation.

While talking about the improvement in relations, the South side has refused to take realistic steps for the improvement of relations. To improve relations between the North and South and to open the road leading to reunification, mutual distrust and misunderstanding should be eliminated, national reconciliation and trust should be achieved, and the tension which has blocked this should be alleviated.

The "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise which was staged in South Korea for some 70 days, beginning in February this year, suspended the hard-won economic talks and Red Cross talks between the North and South for 6 months. This proved that the alleviation of tension on the Korean peninsula is an indispensable requirement for the improvement of relations between the North and South.

Our proposal for North-South parliamentary talks is precisely for the resolution of this urgent requirement. If the South side had the will to achieve national reconciliation, unity, and reunification, it would not oppose our proposal for the alleviation of tension.

However, although it agreed on our initiative for holding North-South parliamentary talks, the South side has turned a deaf ear to our proposal for discussing the problem of announcing a joint declaration of nonaggression for the alleviation of tension. As a result, the two rounds of the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks have ended without any success.

We proposed to the South side that the third preliminary contact be held on 16 October. Since promising that it would answer this later, the South side has failed to give us any answer to this. Furthermore, as to our side's repeated telephone notices urging it to answer this proposal, the South side has given an insincere answer, saying that it will notify us after mid-December when the current regular National Assembly will end.

If the South side continues to take an insincere attitude toward dialogue while talking about the improvement of relations between the North and South, thereby trying to evade the holding of negotiations to arrange guarantees for the alleviation of tension, the practical improvement of relations cannot be expected.

The South side has pursued confrontation with us while clamoring about the so-called need for dialogue.

As soon as members of the South Korean Red Cross art troupe and home-visiting group returned to Seoul from Pyongyang, an aerial military exercise to attack areas in the northern half of the republic, the largest scale of military exercise unprecedented in history, was held in the central and western sector of the frontline area. Military exercises against us are being staged even now. Since the start of North-South dialogue, the South side has introduced into South Korea from the United States numerous operational equipment, including F-16 fighter-bombers capable of carrying nuclear bombs. This is not an attitude for dialogue but an attitude for confrontation.

While talking about reunification in the open, the South side has staged mendicant diplomacy in many foreign countries in a bid to recruit supporters and sympathizers for cross-recognition and entry into the United Nations. Such splittist maneuvers have been now staged in earnest in New York, where the United Nations General Assembly session is being held.

Dialogue and confrontation and dialogue and war preparations cannot be compatible. Every action of the South side has proven that its dialogue with us is a sham and that its real aim is not for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification but only for the aggravation of tension and for the fixation of division. Because of the double-dealing tactics and the breach of faith by the South side, the dialogue between the North and South has not been progressed but has been in a stalemate, and no affirmative change has been effected in the relations between North and South.

The anticommunist confrontation rackets in South Korea which have been further intensified since the exchange of the art troupes and home visiting groups between the North and South have further worsened the relations between the two sides.

If the mutual visits result in worsening the relations between the North and South, we cannot but fully question whether there is the need to continue them in the future, too. Slandorous and defaming propaganda will bring no profit to the dialogue and contacts. If the South side wants to do a good thing for the nation through dialogue and contact with us, it should renounce its confrontation policy and should take a sincere attitude toward dialogue.

If the persons in authority in South Korea continue to advance along the road which runs counter to the trend of the times, they may lead the situation toward a grave one.

KIM IL-SONG RECEIVES GDR YOUTH DELEGATION

SK011040 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Pyongyang November 1 (KCNA) -- The great leader President Kim Il-song received Friday the Free German Youth delegation headed by Eberhard Aurich, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Free German Youth (FDJ), on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Yi Yong-su, member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth, and Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee. GDR Ambassador extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Korea Karl Heinz-Kern was also present.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guest in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The guests presented a gift to President Kim Il-song.

PAK SONG-CHOL MEETS PRC PROCURATOR'S DELEGATION

SK020507 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Pyongyang November 2 (KCNA) -- Vice-President Pak Song-chol met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Chinese Supreme People's Procurator's Office headed by its Deputy Chief Procurator Wang Xiaoguang on November 1 at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Present there were Han Chi-sol, vice-director of the Central Public Prosecutor's Office, and Zong Kewen, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

PRC TRADE MINISTRY DELEGATION GIVEN AWARDS

SK310908 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 26 Oct 85

[Text] A ceremony was held on 26 October at the Mansudae Assembly Hall to award DPRK friendship orders and medals to the visiting members of the delegation of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

Vice President Yi Chong-ok, Vice Minister of External Economic Affairs Chon Il-chun, and (Chung Kyongcho), councilor of the PRC Embassy in our country, were present at the ceremony.

At the ceremony, a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee was read. Then Vice President Yi Chong-ok awarded DPRK friendship orders and medals to the members of the delegation. Order of Friendship First Class was awarded to Shi Lin, head of the delegation and adviser to the PRC Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and Orders of Friendship Second Class and medals of friendship were respectively awarded to other members of the delegation.

KIM IL-SONG MESSAGE TO ALGERIA'S BENDJEDID

SK311054 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 31 Oct 85

[Text] Pyongyang October 31 (KCNA) -- Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent on October 30 a message to Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic and secretary-general of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party, warmly congratulating him on the 31st anniversary of the start of the revolution in Algeria.

President Kim Il-song in his message: The Algerian people achieved national independence through arduous armed struggle and have since made big progress in the struggle to uphold chajusong (independence), lay a foundation of an independent national economy by their own efforts and build a new society, just and prosperous. Today the Algerian people, under your correct leadership, continue to dynamically advance along the road of socialist construction and are greatly contributing to the cause against imperialism, colonialism and Zionism and for the common interests of the Third World peoples.

President Kim Il-song expresses the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Algeria will grow stronger and develop.

STUDENTS AT U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TAKEN AWAY

SK040555 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 4 (OANA-YONHAP) -- A group of 14 radical students who had occupied the U.S. Chamber of Commerce office Monday in protest against U.S. pressure on Korea to open its market more widely were taken away by police about 1:10 p.m. Monday (0410 GMT), two hours after they took over the office in a hotel in downtown Seoul. About 50 plain clothesmen, who sneaked into the Chosun Hotel through emergency staircase at 12:50 rushed into the office on the third floor spraying water to prevent the students from setting fire and took the students out of the office. The students poured gasoline on the floor of the office and threatened to set fire if police dash into the office. After a 20-minute operation, the students were led away on a bus.

While occupying the American office, the students chanted slogans criticizing the U.S. trade policies. "The U.S. should stop pressuring South Korea to open its imports." They also shouted antigovernment slogans. The students are from seven universities in Seoul, including the state-run Seoul National University.

MORE THAN 7,000 STUDENTS NATIONWIDE DEMONSTRATE

SK030038 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Nov 85 p 8

[Text] More than 7,000 students demonstrated on and off campuses of 20 universities and colleges across the country Friday, according to police. Of them, protesters at some 10 schools staged fierce battle against riot police by throwing stones and Molotov cocktails.

Police said they had led away a total of 112 violent agitators for questioning.

Noryangjin Police Station Friday arrested Hong Kyong-pyo, a senior of Chungang University, who had been wanted for months as a leading student activist. Hong was taken at 2:30 p.m., while he was leaving the campus after leading a demonstration at the school's Louis Garden. The students battled in a violent exchange of tear gas and stones similar to one that took place at Seoul National University on Thursday.

Some 100 students from Seoul National University and other institutions in Kyonggi-do staged a surprise demonstration on a street in downtown Songnam City for about 20 minutes from around 8 p.m., Friday, chanting anti-government slogans. In Seoul, a score of students attacked a police box near Sungin Market in Mia-Dong at 6 p.m., Friday.

PROFESSORS ASK STUDENTS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT

SK020113 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Nov 85 p 8

[Text] Alarmed by violent student demonstrations on Thursday and the subsequent night-long sit-in at the library, professors of Seoul National University urged students to regain composure befitting the image of students. In an emergency faculty meeting yesterday, the professors also expressed displeasure with the hasty police efforts to make the arrest of Son Yong-chin, arguing that it touched off violent student demonstrations. Son, acting as the president of the student council was presiding over a funeral for U Chong-won, who committed suicide while being wanted as a leading activist student. Son has also been wanted by police.

Presided over by President Pak Pong-sik, the meeting was attended by the 500 full professors and lasted for an hour from 9 a.m. On Thursday night, department chiefs held a marathon conference from 10:30 p.m. until 4 a.m. yesterday. President Pak, said after the emergency meeting, "It is very regretful that an undesirable incident has taken place at Seoul National University." He was referring to the shattering of windowpanes of the university headquarters building by protesting students.

Nearly 100 windows on the first and second floor of the four-story building were shattered by stones and clubs hurled by hundreds of students Thursday afternoon when they raided upon the facility in search of policemen who were inside the campus. The demonstration on Thursday was participated in by some 2,000 students, and 1,000 of them kept vigil at the library, chanting anti-government slogans and demanding the resignation of Pak.

Despite the call made by professor for the restoration of campus order, students continued agitative movements and held meetings by colleges yesterday to determine their future actions after the Thursday incident. Students of the college of social sciences were considering boycotting classes in protest over the school's prohibition of the campus festival called "Samminje." The suspended funeral ceremony for the late U was conducted at 11 a.m. yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry was learned to have instructed the university to leave the destroyed school property as it is. Student demonstrations took place at five other Seoul Universities including Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Chungang University.

NKDP LAWMAKERS DISCUSS SNU DEMONSTRATIONS

SK030100 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Nov 85 p 8

[Text] Eight lawmakers of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), who graduated from Seoul National University (SNU), visited their alma mater yesterday to talk with the school president Pak Pong-sik concerning the violent student demonstrations at the school Thursday and Friday. Noting that they made a visit to the state-run university in the capacity of alumni, the lawmakers said that they will also visit the Kwanak Police Station, whose policemen crashed with students during the violent rallies. Rep. Pak Yong-man and seven others are member of the Kwanak-hoe, which is a fraternity of NKDP lawmakers who graduated from the state-run university.

An estimated 2,000 university students staged violent rallies for two consecutive days, hurling stones at police and smashing hundreds of glass windows of the school administration building. In the crash, some riot policemen and several students were injured.

NORTH MANIPULATION OF SPY NETWORKS DENOUNCED

SK020057 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Nov 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Discovery of Spy Rings"]

[Text] At a time when inter-Korea talks are proceeding at a somewhat brisk pace through multilateral channels, it must be considered ironic that underground spy networks manipulated by North Korea have recently been discovered by counter-espionage authorities of the Republic. Whenever Pyongyang's subversive plots, activating spy rings and dispatching espionage agents here, are unearthed, the atmosphere at the conference table for south-north dialogue is predictably chilled, despite sustained peace-oriented efforts on the part of the people and government in the south.

The Defense Security Command yesterday announced that five spy rings, involving a total of 16 persons allegedly engaged in espionage activities for the north Korean regime, had been cracked. Those espionage agents reportedly attempted to obstruct international gatherings in south Korea, including the Asian Games next year and the 1988 Olympiad, as well as the recent World Bank meeting, by spreading rumors and instigating violent anti-government demonstrations. The spy rings were also found to have ventured upon acts of sabotage against military units and mining villages in the south, while trying to set up clandestine cells in coastal regions and in vulnerable sectors of south Korean society, the counter-espionage authorities revealed.

As long as the subversive designs of north Korea have become clearly recognizable as such, the public at large in the south is urged yet again to renew its determination to maintain social stability and harmony with unwavering resolve. It should be stressed that the Pyongyang regime may well stick to its dual-facted policy vis-a-vis the south, combining disguised peace offensives and subversion, until such time as it finally realizes the invulnerability of all sectors of south Korean society to its provocative acts.

NO TERMS RELATIONS WITH U.S. BETTER THAN EVER

SK030030 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Nov 85 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister No Sin-yong said yesterday that Korea is on better terms with the United States than ever before in spite of the current trade frictions. Briefly meeting with the press upon arrival at the Kimpo International Airport, he said, "During my visit to the United States, I found out that the friendly relations between the two nations have been strengthened since the visit to America by President Chon Tu-hwan last April."

Premier No returned home from his 16-day visit to the United Nations, New York, Washington and Los Angeles. He delivered an address to the U.N. General Assembly on Oct. 21 as a Korean Government representative for the first time. No noted that he shared the view with U.S. leaders that the political and social stability in Korea is needed for the success of the ongoing inter-Korean dialogue and the holding of the Olympics slated for Seoul in 1988. He went on, "My visit to the United States offered me a good chance to meet and discuss with leaders from the world the ways of increasing mutual cooperation." At the General Assembly of the United Nations to commemorate the 40th anniversary, No said, he had a good chance to reveal Korea's diplomacy towards peace.

Those who welcomed the premier at the airport included Deputy Premier-Planning Minister Sin Pyong-hyon, Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong, State Minister for Political Affairs Chong Chae-chol, Government Administration Minister Pak Se-chik, U.S. Ambassador to Korea Richard Walker and some government officials.

COUNTRY TO JOIN GATT ANTIDUMPING CONVENTION

SK040611 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Text] Seoul, Nov 4 (OANA-YONHAP) -- The Korean Government has decided to join the anti-dumping convention of the General Agreement Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before the end of this year. By joining the convention, the government hopes to improve Korea's adaptability to market-opening policies and to prevent foreign traders from dumping or engaging in other unfair trade practices, a Trade and Industry Ministry source said Monday.

Under Korean's existing domestic laws, the Korean Government can impose anti-dumping duties on foreign goods. But before the legal provisions can be enforced, Korea must join the anti-dumping convention, the source said. If a nation joins the convention, it can send anti-dumping investigative teams to other countries, under the principle of reciprocity and the other country is obligated, under the convention, to facilitate the investigation in every way possible.

After studying the advantages and disadvantages of membership in the convention for a long time, the Korean Government decided to join the convention, because it determined that the enactment of domestic laws would be insufficient to prevent dumping and other unfair trade practices, the source said. The government has begun investigating the dumping practices of foreign traders on the Korean market. It suspects that two or three petrochemical products have been sold on the Korean market at prices lower than they are sold in the countries of origin, the source said.

ECONOMIC EXPERTS TO BE HIRED FOR OVERSEAS WORK

SK020203 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 2 (OANA-YONHAP) -- The Korean Government plans to hire economic experts to work in its overseas embassies and consulates, in order to deal with mounting global trade protectionism and pressure on Korea to open its markets more widely, a high ranking official said Saturday. As a first step, the government will send competent diplomats and foreign lawyers well versed in economics to the Korean Embassy in Washington and to Korean Consulates in other major U.S. cities.

In hiring foreign lawyers and economic experts, the government will give priority to those who have worked with the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) and the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the source said. Under the plan, the diplomats and lawyers will work together to collect trade information, which they will distribute among Korean traders, and to strengthen private-level lobbying activities, in an effort to prevent bilateral trade friction, the source said. If the plan proves to be effective, the government will employ similar personnel for its embassies in Japan and European countries, the source added.

NATION'S EXPORTS IN OCTOBER DECLINE 2.8 PER ENT

SK011135 Seoul YONHAP in English 1130 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 1 (YONHAP) -- South Korea's exports totaled 2,685 million U.S. dollars in October, down 2.8 percent from the same month last year, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said Friday. In September, exports went up 13.1 percent in value from the corresponding month last year, the ministry said. Exports in the first 10 months of this year totaled 23,428 million dollars, down 1.4 percent from the like period of last year, while imports reached 24,217 million dollars, also down 5.7 percent from a year ago, the ministry said. In October alone, Korea imported commodities worth of 2,585 million dollars, a 5.7 percent increase from the same month last year, a ministry official said. The official attributed last month's decrease in exports largely to more holidays in the month than in any other month.

Meanwhile, letters of credit (L/C) valued at 1,628 million dollars arrived in October, boosting the value of L/C's the nation received in the first 10 months of this year to 15,879 million dollars.

YI MIN-U, DISSIDENT LEADERS DISCUSS DEADLOCK

SK020107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Nov 85 p 4

[Excerpt] Dissident leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam met NDP [New Korea Democratic Party] president Rep. Yi Min-u at a downtown hotel yesterday morning.

The two Kims, co-chairmen of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, and Yi discussed the current political deadlock between the ruling and opposition parties for an hour and a half.

After the meeting, Kim Yong-sam said, "We are determined to fight against the government and ruling party's plot to throw the NDP into split, and to support for the NDP to take a severe countermeasure against lawmakers who had damaged their own party."

He was referring to the ruling DJP's breach of promise to support the NDP's official nominee in the election of a vice House speaker.

Kim Tae-chung also said, "Any dialogue (for the breakthrough of the political impasse) will not be possible unless the ruling party changes its attitude."

The two Kims affirmed that Rep. Kim Tong-yon, floor leader of the NDP, who had tendered his resignation immediately after the election of the vice speaker, could not be blamed "because he did nothing wrong."

YI MIN-U ON NKDP DECISION TO ATTEND HOUSE SESSION

SK030026 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Nov 85 p 4

[From the column "Press Pocket"]

[Text] "We decided to attend the National Assembly session in order to fulfill the duty of an Assemblyman," said Rep. Yi Min-u, president of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party [NDP], yesterday.

The NDP had stalled the regular House session since last Tuesday by refusing to attend it because, they said, the ruling Democratic Justice Party broke a promise to support its formal candidate for vice speaker in an election last Monday.

The NDP's decision to attend the House session without any conditions, however, stemmed from party leaders' aim to "gloss over the party's internal feud caused by the vice speaker election," according to political observers.

The NDP is now suffering from a serious conflict among its factional groups, due to the mainstreamers' (led by Yi) plan to expel Rep. Cho Yon-ha, elected a vice speaker in the election instead of the party nominee, Rep. Yi Yong-hui.

Yi also said that the party will concentrate, among others, on pressing the ruling camp to consent to the party resolution for the organization of a special parliamentary panel to deal with the constitutional revision issue.

With regard to the normalization of the House session, the NDP will seek to open the standing committees in the morning, "to cover the idling of the panel sessions for the past week." The current Assembly Law provides that the standing committees shall open at 2 p.m.

EXILED FORMER PREMIER PHOUMI NOSAVAN DIES

BK040139 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Nov 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Maj Phoumi Nosavan, a former premier of Laos and leader of the anti-communist Laotian rebels, died of pulmonary edema at a hospital in Nonthaburi Province early yesterday morning. He was 65. Maj Gen Phoumi was rushed to the Central Chest Hospital by his family at about 3 pm Saturday afternoon. He was pronounced dead at 4:45 am yesterday morning. The funeral rite is held at Wat Thepsirin. According to his aide, the former Laotian leader had been previously admitted to the hospital because of the same disease in December last year and was hospitalized for about 15 days.

Maj Gen Phoumi, who fled to Thailand in 1965, announced the formation of the anti-communist government inside Laos in October 1982 and headed the liberation government as prime minister. According to Maj Gen Phoumi's wife, Mrs Somchai Nosavan, the late leader of the anti-communist Laotian rebel forces showed no sign of serious illness before his death. "We didn't expect his death. He worked until his last day without indicating of handing over his post to anybody," said Mrs Nosavan. Phoumi was born January 27, 1920 and was appointed the premier in the so-called neutralist Laotian regime, led by Prince Souvanna Phouma in 1962.

LAO-SOVIET AMITY GROUPS HOLD 1ST CONGRESS

Meeting Opens

BK311038 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 31 Oct 85

[Text] Vientiane, October 31 (KPL) -- The Lao-Soviet Friendship Association (LSFA) and the Soviet-Lao Friendship Society (SLFS) opened their first congress here yesterday. Taking part in the congress were Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Khamsouk Sai-Gnaseng, member of the LPRP CC, minister to the Council of Ministers' Office, president of the LSFA; Vladimir Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador here; V.P. Maslin, vice-president of the Soviet Committee for Peace Fund, president of the SLFS; and other officials. It was also attended by socialist diplomatic envoys here. The congress is to work out a new cooperation plan to help boost the socialist transformation and construction in Laos in the Second Five-Year Plan (1986-90). During this three-day congress, the LSFA's status will be revised and a new executive committee elected.

Statement Issued

BK021212 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Vientiane, November 2 OANA (KPL) -- The First Congress of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association [LSFA] issued a statement on October 29 condemning the United States' plot to gain military superiority over the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and voicing strong support for the struggle of nations for national independence, peace and social progress.

The statement says:

"Now more than ever before, the Lao people of all nationalities, especially the LSFA, as well as peace-loving people in the world should unite and join their efforts in the struggle against the aggressive policies and nuclear war programme of the U.S. and its allies.

"We strongly condemn the United States' bellicose policies and demand that it stop the nuclear arms race and the Star Wars programme and reduce its armed forces right away.

"We firmly support the constructive policies of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries aimed at preventing nuclear war and the arms race, especially the militarisation of outer space. We wholeheartedly support the statement issued by the Soviet Government on October 3rd aiming at reducing the deployment of missiles in Europe.

"We consider the stance made clear by the three Indochinese countries at the 11th conference of Indochinese foreign ministers as an important factor in lessening tension in Southeast Asia.

"The LSFA as well as the Lao people of all nationalities will do their utmost to strengthen the militant solidarity, close relations and all-round cooperation among the socialist community, for the safeguarding of the outposts of socialism in Southeast Asia, and for peace in the region and all over the world."

Officers Elected, Meeting Ends

BK021216 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Vientiane, November 2 (OANA-KPL) -- The First Congress of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association was closed here on October 30 after 3 days of sitting. The congress worked out a new plan for the years 1986-90 aiming at developing and strengthening relations between the friendship associations and the peoples of Laos and the Soviet Union for the happiness of the working people. The congress also supported the home and foreign policies laid down by the Third Congress of the LPRP and the peace policy of the party and government of the Soviet Union. It unanimously passed [word indistinct] elected a new 70-member permanent committee and a 15-executive committee of the association. Khamsouk Saignaseng, member of the party CC, minister to the Council of Minister's Office, was elected president of the association; Leuam Insisiangmai, Inpong Khaingavong, Thongsavat Gnamani and Mrs Khamsouk Vongvichit were elected vice-presidents. Present at the closing ceremony were Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the party CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Chanmi Douangboutdi, Politburo member of the party CC, director of the higher party school; together with other ranking officials. Vladimir Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador to Laos, V.P. Maslin, vice-president of the Soviet Committee for Peace Fund, president of the SFLFS, and socialist diplomats were also present on this occasion.

SOVIET WELFARE MINISTRY DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

BK311040 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 31 Oct 85

[Text] Vientiane, October 31 (KPL) -- Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, received here on Oct 28, a delegation of the Social Welfare Ministry of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (USSR) led by Fesorof head of the Organization and Education Department, on a current visit here. Also in attendance was Thongvan Phanlatsavong, vice-president of the National Committee for Social Welfare and War Veterans. During the warm and cordial meeting, Phoumi Vongvichit welcomed the delegation's visit, describing it as contributing to further strengthening the friendship and all-round cooperation between Laos and the USSR. The delegation, during its stay here, gave lectures in Vientiane and Luang Prabang, paid a courtesy visit to Mun Somvichit, president of the National Committee for Social Welfare and War Veterans, and signed a cooperation plan with the Lao side. The delegation left here yesterday.

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES U.S. BUSINESSMEN

BK030227 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday urged a group of visiting U.S. business leaders to convey to the American people and government Thailand's call for support to help keep the "Wall of Freedom" secure against external threats and economic protectionism.

Sitthi was speaking to about a 70-member delegation, including 30 leading American business executives, who is here on the last leg of a seven-nation Pacific tour organized by Time Inc, known as "Newstour '85," during a luncheon at Chit Photchana restaurant opposite Oriental Hotel, where they are staying. The Thai foreign minister called upon the United States to "stand openly side by side with us in solving the conflict in this region." He said ASEAN fully appreciates the policy of the U.S. Government that a fait accompli in Kampuchea on Vietnamese terms will not be tolerated.

Sitthi said China has as strong a desire for peace and stability in Southeast Asia as Thailand does. "However, it is regrettable that, so far, we have not yet succeeded in convincing the Soviet Union to play a positive role in this region," he said, adding that Thailand will continue to develop ties with the Soviet Union on the basis of reciprocity in hopes that it will result in a greater awareness on the part of the latter of the potential for cooperation with the dynamic ASEAN countries.

The foreign minister stressed that the economic dimension of Thailand's foreign policy "goes hand in hand" with security interests. He said Thailand is aiming for trade with all nations on a "fair and free" basis. But he noted that with an open economy, "Thailand is directly affected by the external economic situation," he said. He told the visiting American business leaders that Thailand's basic exports, which still consist largely of commodity products, are suffering a fall in prices. "The move towards protectionism in the industrialized world against our manufactured products has become our major concern, since it is against the principle of free trade in every sense," he said.

Sitthi said Thailand will join other ASEAN friends as well as like-minded nations to resist and ward off the trend towards protectionism, and the imposition of tariff and non-tariff barriers. "We cannot afford a down-turn in our economy for there would be great repercussions on our national development, on the well-being of our people and in turn, on the internal political stability of our country," he said.

The visiting American businessmen yesterday morning held talks with leading Thai officials and businessmen including Industry Minister Dr Chirayu Itsarangkun Na Ayutthaya, Secretary General of the National Economic and Social Development Board Sano Unakun, Director General of the Economic Department of Foreign Ministry Danai Dulalampha and Saha Union Executive Chairman Anan Punyarachun.

COLUMNIST VIEWS IMPACT OF U.S. GARMENT EMBARGO

BK031121 Bangkok NAO NA in Thai 3 Nov 85 p 16

[Nui Bangkhunthian column]

[Text] The Textile Industry Association is struggling to avoid bankruptcy caused by the United States. Some small companies have already closed. If the United States does not alleviate the problem of garment overshipping, it will not only cause the loss of 3 billion baht but also affect some 30,000 textile workers.

According to Garment Industry Association of Thailand figures, about 131,000 people work in garment factories for export (not including those working in garment factories for the domestic market), and a large number work in related industries. Looking at these figures, one has to be concerned that, once the textile trade is affected, those workers will feel the impact as well.

After careful consideration, one cannot help wondering whether Thai businessmen have tied themselves up too tightly with their policy of exporting garments to the United States. The United States has continuous problems with its precarious economy since Nixon was president. After the Vietnam War ended and Nixon was forced to resign, Jimmy Carter tried to solve economic problems with a conservative policy, but the situation worsened. When Reagan took over the situation, it looked like a time of recovery during the 1st 4 years. When he was re-elected for a second term, however, the U.S. economy declined to the extent that it has had to shift its free trade policy to one of protectionism.

Our businessmen and government should ask themselves whether they want the Thai economy to recover quickly. If they do not want recovery, then they should leave the producers and laborers to their fate. If, on the other hand, they want a recovery, they should take a broader view. There are more markets for our products, and no need to think that without the U.S. market Thai trade faces bankruptcy.

Today, a country's security does not depend on military strength or a policy of serving a generous godfather. It depends on sagacity in pursuing economic interests. Thai products are of high quality and are in demand on all markets. Many countries want to buy them. Our obstacle is not knowing how to exploit more markets. Businessmen must exploit markets by themselves. They have to invest in factories, employ workers to produce goods, and develop contacts for foreign purchases and delivery. They must also control product quality and build up their credit by themselves.

The packing credit may provide some help, but, in the international trading process, more tricks and techniques are needed. In such a situation, if businessmen want to open up the market with the communist side, they should not be blocked. The United States itself still trades with the USSR and the PRC, so why should a small country like Thailand obstinately adhere to the free world formula? Politics and business should not be confused as one issue.

If Thailand ever becomes a slave of the communists, the most likely cause will be a tottering economy or disunity among ourselves.

OFFICIAL SAYS SRV PROPOSAL FOR REGION NOT NEW

BK030155 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Nov 85 p 3

[Excerpts] A recent statement by a top Vietnamese official that the Heng Samrin regime was willing to talk to all three Khmer resistance groups is pure propaganda before the upcoming annual vote on the United Nations Resolution on Kampuchea, a senior Thai official said yesterday. The senior official, who asked not to be named, was referring to an article published in the latest edition of the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW. The article quoted Vietnamese Minister of State Vo Dong Giang in New York as saying that Hanoi agreed to direct talks between the Heng Samrin regime and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea excluding, however, Pol Pot and Ieng Sary.

The senior Thai official reiterated that Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong's recent statement showed no new stance by Hanoi. "Vietnam's policy has not changed," the official said. The upcoming UN Resolution vote on Kampuchea is scheduled for between November 4 and 6, but no definite date has yet been set for the vote.

EN MASSE BEE DEFECATIONS SAID CAUSING YELLOW RAIN

BK301230 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Oct 85 p 4

[Text] In the September 1985 issue of the prestigious journal SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, a Thai scientist and four American colleagues propose what they believe is a better explanation for the yellow substance found on rocks and leaves in Southeast Asia. John Finck talks to one of the authors of the article, Dr Phongthep Akkharattanakun of Kasetsat University, and reports on his findings.

A Thai professor's lifelong study of honey-bees led an international team of scientists to solve the riddle of yellow rain -- a form of chemical warfare that is alleged by the U.S. Government to have been used against resistance and refugees groups in Laos and Kampuchea.

Reports of chemical warfare have come from Thai border regions since the late 1970's. Refugees and soldiers coming across the border have described aircraft and helicopters spraying a yellow rain-like material on their crops and villages. Victims of these aerial attacks were said to suffer a variety of symptoms, including skin irritations, dizziness, nausea, bloody vomiting and diarrhea, internal hemorrhaging, and death.

In September 1981 the United States announced that physical samples had been found in Southeast Asia showing that the Soviet Union and its allies were using high levels of poisonous substances that are not native to the region and are highly toxic to man and animals.

But Dr Phongthep Akkharattanakun of Kasetsat University and four American colleagues have found what they believe is a better explanation for the yellow substance found on rocks and leaves in Southeast Asia. In the September 1985 issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, a prestigious journal with a world-wide circulation, they report that yellow rain is the feces of Southeast Asian honeybees.

As a graduate student, Phongthep, and an American colleague, Thomas Seeley, spent long months in the jungles of Khao Yai National Park studying the defence strategies of the giant Asian honeybee. Neither man knew at the time that their basic research on the behaviour of bees would 10 years later lead them to team up again on another scientific expedition and provide valuable clues to the mystery of yellow rain.

While Pol Pot's forces waged terror on nearby Kampuchea, 200 kilometres to the east of their research site in Khao Yai National Park, the two scientists, Phongthep and Seeley, quietly took up their solitary bee research. The two men were curious: how did the giant Asian honeybees protect their hives from predators?

"We knew that the giant Asian honeybee, Apis Dorsata nests in the open, high up in trees with smooth, slippery bark," said Phongthep. "This behaviour has evolved through natural selection to protect the bees from their two major terrestrial enemies, reptiles and mammals." Each enjoy the taste of bees and their honey but both predators have difficulty climbing trees with few branches and smooth bark. By nesting in the treetops the bee discourages invasion from the ground.

Phongthep saw that the Asian honeybee has another enemy, an aerial predator -- birds. In order for the bees to protect their brood and honey, he observed that approximately three-quarters of the 30-50,000 worker bees at any single hive are engaged in forming a living curtain, three to four bees thick, around the hive. The clinging shield of live bees protects the surface of their nest from attack by birds.

"This explains why so many bees are not gathering pollen and are seemingly 'doing nothing,' by lining the surface of their nest. In fact, these workers are actively defending the nest from aerial predators," said Phongthep.

These and other original findings on the behaviour of the giant Asian honeybee -- contributions to the basic science of entomology -- were published by Phongthep years before he was to hear of yellow rain.

In 1977, Phongthep, with a newly earned Ph.D degree, returned home eager to introduce his country to the modern bee industry, the same year Hmong refugees from Laos began reporting chemical attacks. Samples of yellow rain scrapped from vegetation and rocks began appearing at the border, brought by refugees who had allegedly witnessed attacks.

The samples intrigued scientists. Government and university laboratories in the United States, Canada, Australia and England analysed the yellow material with varying results. The U.S. Army's Chemical Research and Development Centre in Aberdeen, Maryland found no trace of chemical warfare agent. A scientist at the University of Minnesota, Chester J. Mirocha, found five of six samples were positive for minute traces of trichotecene toxins, a poisonous substance foreign to Southeast Asia which the United States claimed in 1981 is evidence for Soviet use of a new form of chemical warfare. But other scientists, chief among them, Dr Matthew Meselson, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Harvard University, began searching for alternative explanations.

A new clue came in January 1982. Investigators at the British Chemical Defence Establishment in Salisbury, England, discovered that samples of yellow rain contain large amounts of pollen. Later it was found that all samples of the material alleged to be yellow rain consist largely of pollen grains. Subsequent data published by the Australian Department of Defence suggested that the pollen in the yellow rain samples resembled pollen from plant families that grew in Southeast Asia.

Next came a critical insight from Dr Peter M. Ashton, a botanist from Harvard University, who pointed out that bees gather pollen from the flowers of these plant. Perhaps, he suggested, yellow rain comes from bees.

But how, it was argued, could the pollen come to be so highly concentrated in rain-drop like spots on rocks and vegetation? Dr Ashton contacted a young professor at Yale University, Dr Thomas Seeley, an expert in the behaviour and economy of the honeybee -- and friend of Dr Phongthep from their days together at Cornell University's Bee Research Lab and in the deep forests of Khao Yai National Park.

In March 1984, Dr Phongthep received a telegram from his old partner, Tom Seeley, that he and Dr Meselson were coming to Thailand. Did Phongthep know of sites where it would possible to observe the defecation pattern of honey-bees? The scientific literature contained no references to tropical honey-bees defecating en masse that would be necessary in order to produce the pattern of spots on vegetation said to be usual with sightings of yellow rain.

"I took Tom and Matt to a site outside the village of Khua Muang, about 20 kilometres south of Chiang Mai," said Dr Phongthep. "I've been there many times and knew this is a site where we can see the bees in action. I had heard some of the villagers say that they witnessed yellow spots falling on their clothes as they dried in the sun.

"We were looking at a tree that held about 80 nests. It was late in the afternoon, about five. We were just about to leave. I saw movement in a nest -- I have a good pair of eyes. I said to Tom: 'They're going to do it.' Then we saw a lightening in the colour of several nests, as the bees left the nest.

"It was a massive taking off of bees. With the binoculars I saw a cloud of bees overhead, about 30 yards in the air. They looked like dark spots, but I knew what I was looking at. Then, we were caught in the middle of a silent shower."

As Phongthep and his co-authors later reported their experience in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN: "The shower began at 5.17 p.m. and lasted for approximately five minutes. The density of the spots on the hood and roof of our parked Land Rover was 209 per square metre... Our observations showed that showers of honey-bee feces do indeed occur in the tropics of Southeast Asia; moreover, the showers and spots closely resemble the showers and spots said to be caused by the yellow rain."

The silent bee shower echoed Phongthep's earlier work. Observing the defensive strategies of bees in Khao Yai National Park, he noted the living curtain of bees surrounding the nest that protected it from hungry birds. After seeing the fecal shower, Phongthep took his previous finding one step further. "When a bee defending the nest has to go to the bathroom, the curtain is disrupted," he said. Layers of bees clinging to one another hold the curtain together. When parts of the curtain leave, it apparently signals others to follow; the nest lightens with a mass departure of bees who defecate together in mid-air near the vicinity of the nest and quickly return as a group to their defensive duties at the hive.

Phongthep elegantly linked the two observations and in doing so provided crucial findings that the international team used to challenge the conventional origin of yellow rain.

Later, Phongthep and the others travelled to Ban Winai refugee camp, where most of the interviews with the witnesses of the alleged chemical attacks were previously conducted by government officials. Phongthep asked 16 groups of refugees if they could identify the spots on leaves he brought with them that were dotted with the feces of honeybees. Thirteen groups did not know what the spots were. Two groups said the spots were "kemi," their term for yellow rain. One man, in one group, said the spots were insect feces, but later changed his mind after discussion with the other men in his group.

"Our interviews showed that the Hmong refugees were unable to identify what the spots were and some groups identified the spots as 'kemi'," said Phongthep.

Has "kemi" become a folk explanation with a "scientific ring"? Have the Hmong, who traditionally worship the spirit world, found a modern equivalent to explain their ills?

In the Thai village of Pha Ban, on the Laotian border near Chiang Khan, Dr Phongthep met a Thai farmer who said he had become ill because of yellow rain. The farmer said he was ploughing his fields, around noon, when he saw yellow spots dropping from the sky. Some landed on his skin. He felt nauseous and went home to wash off the sticky spots and noticed that other spots had fallen on his house. Several days later, the wife of a friend of his died. Then 200 of his hybrid chickens died mysteriously. Still later, a neighbour's prized bull also died.

"I asked him how he knew it was yellow rain," said Phongthep. "He said that he read about it in the local newspaper. He told me that he is a member of the village defence volunteer group and that their group had been warned to be on the watch for yellow rain."

"I asked him if he vaccinated his chickens, which is necessary to raise hybrid varieties. No, he said, my chickens were not vaccinated; they died of yellow rain. I asked, did the veterinarian perform an autopsy on the bull? Yes, the farmer said. The veterinarian said that bull died of foot and mouth disease -- but we know yellow rain brought the foot and mouth disease to us..."

"As a scientist also trained in agriculture I knew why the chickens and bulls died, but nothing I could say would change the sincere beliefs of this innocent farmer. He truly believed that yellow rain was the cause of his misfortunes."

The evidence assembled by Phongthep and the four co-authors come from a variety of disciplines: botany, entomology, behavioural economy, anthropology and molecular biology, and from the laboratory as well as the field. Their work benefited from the free exchange of data, speculation and testing of hypotheses among scientists working independently in England, Canada, and Australia.

"None of us could have done it by ourselves," said Dr Phongthep. "But as a team, we had the necessary skills. I suppose I shouldn't use the word luck in describing scientific research, but many extraordinary things fell our way."

"The ultimate purpose of science," he said carefully, "is to propose explanations for what we observe in nature. As a scientist I have a duty to express my findings in a public forum so that they can be debated openly. I am not in a position to say whether or not chemical warfare is taking place. What we have shown, using the tools of science, is that yellow rain is not made by man, but by bees."

7,100 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES TO BE MOVED TO NEW SITE

BK020111 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Nov 85 p 1

[Text] Thai and United Nations relief officials have agreed that the 7,100 Khmer civilians found illegally in the Khao I-Dang holding centre this month will be moved. National Security Council [NSC] Secretary-General Sqn-Ldr Prasong Sunsiri said the decision was made last Tuesday after a meeting of Thai officials and representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]. The decision became effective yesterday, he said, but it would take about two weeks for a final site to be agreed upon.

The NSC chief said the process to separate the 7,100, discovered after a census of the holding centre on September 29, was due to start yesterday. He said Thai and UNHCR officials had yet to agree on a suitable site in Thailand for the civilians, and that arrangements had to be made for essential services and equipment.

In the meantime, he said, the UNHCR will be allowed to continue giving food to the Khmer civilians. After their discovery, the group was given one-month food ration cards. Before their discovery, relief sources said the Khmers had been living without a regular source of food. The source said then that they were concerned about increasing malnutrition and an increasing infant mortality rate.

DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER MOVED TO INACTIVE POST

BK030210 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Nov 85 p 2

[Excerpt] Deputy Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Arun Phromthep was recently moved to an inactive post at the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Defense and will, along with 26 other incumbent military officers, be suspended from active duty now that they have been prosecuted in the court in connection with the September 9 abortive coup, informed military sources told THE NATION yesterday.

The order to move ACM Arun to the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Defense was issued some time late last month, according to the sources. The sources said it was signed right after the court accepted sedition charges against 40 coup suspects, including top-ranking military officers who have retired and labour leaders, on October 25. The Supreme Command is now in the process of issuing orders for the suspension of 27 active officers prosecuted on sedition charges," one source said.

U.S. GROUP MEETS PHAM VAN DONG, DEPARTS

BK011554 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 1-- A delegation of American businessmen representing more than 30 big companies in the automobile, aeronautics, machine building, oil exploitation, power, telephone, banking, social security, tourism and hotel industries, and many senior officials of the TIME Corporation paid a visit to Vietnam from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1st. The delegation was cordially received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong. Earlier, it was received by Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Quynh who briefed the guests on Vietnam's situation as well as line and policy for economic development. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach exchanged views with the guests on the Vietnamese situation, and briefed them on Vietnam's foreign policy of peace and friendship. He gave a reception in the guests' honour.

Last night, the delegation of American businessmen gave a reception which was attended by vice chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Quynh, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, and many high-ranking officials, professors and students. While in Hanoi, the American delegation paid tribute at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, visited the late president's home and office, the army museum, and crash site of a U.S. B-52 in Ngoc Ha, Hanoi.

In Ho Chi Minh City today, the delegation was received by Mai Chi Tho, deputy secretary of the city's Communist party committee and Phan Van Khai, chairman of the city's people's committee. It toured a number of industrial establishments in Ho Chi Minh City and gave a reception. The American guests left Vietnam this afternoon, concluding their visit.

HANOI ON SUMMIT PREPARATIONS, REAGAN UN SPEECH

BK010606 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 31 Oct 85

[Feature: "Heighten Vigilance for National Defense" by station editor Vu Dinh Vinh]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: The Soviet-U.S. summit meeting will take place 19-20 November in Geneva between Comrade Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and U.S. President Reagan. This is a meeting earnestly desired by the world public and one of great importance to the urgent issues of mankind and the era. During preparations for this summit, peace-loving people in the world are greatly interested in the policies, proposals, and statements of both the Soviet and the U.S. sides. It can be said that, while people are warmly welcoming the initiatives and proposals of the Soviet Union, which is doing its utmost to help the Soviet-U.S. summit reach practical results, people are also expressing doubt and frustration over the statements and acts of the Reagan administration.

In fact, the Soviet attitude and policy is crystal clear. In early October, during his visit to the Republic of France, Comrade Gorbachev officially announced the Soviet proposal to the U.S. Government for an agreement banning all space-based offensive weapons of both sides, truly reducing nuclear arms -- those that both sides can fire at each other's territory -- by 50 percent. Regarding mid-range nuclear weapons in Europe, the Soviet Union is ready to hold direct talks with France and Great Britain about the positions and nuclear potentials of these two countries in the balance of forces in Europe. These Soviet initiatives are very important because they can not only prevent an extremely dangerous arms race but also reduce the balance of nuclear forces to a considerably lower level.

Earlier, the Warsaw Pact member countries' leaders held a political consultative conference in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, 22-23 October. The conference participants specifically considered the situation in Europe and exchanged views with one another on basic issues of international relations in general. They paid special attention to the urgent tasks of struggling for peace, eliminating the nuclear danger, improving the situation in Europe and the world, preventing the militarization of outer space, and ending the arms race -- especially the nuclear arms race.

The conference issued a statement on eliminating the nuclear danger and improving the situation in Europe and the world, expounding the consistent stand of the Warsaw Pact member countries in struggling for peace and detente, and asserting the goodwill of these countries to make the greatest contributions to achieving the goals of the era. The Sofia conference statement contains a series of peaceful initiatives and proposals including the important initiatives put forth not long ago by the Soviet Union to end nuclear weapons tests, ban the militarization of outer space, reduce Soviet and U.S. nuclear weapons that can be fired at each other's territory by half, and so forth. The Warsaw Pact member countries also proposed that the United States and Soviet Union stop increasing their Armed Forces effective 1 January 1986 and their military budgets in the coming fiscal year. This statement obviously responds to the aspirations of all nations.

Meanwhile, in his speech marking the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, U.S. President Reagan has appropriated all the blame and indignation of large segments of the general public. Reading the text of Reagan's 24 October address to the UN General Assembly, broadcast by USIS, one can see clearly the U.S. President's scheme to evade the issues of peace and security that concern the whole world and to put forth instead plentiful distortions. He actually proposed nothing really useful in improving the world situation, which makes people worry about and question about the United States' real intentions.

Against a background of the nations' burning desire to eliminate the danger of a nuclear holocaust, end the nuclear arms race, and quickly improve the current tense world situation and at a time when the world public is awaiting a positive U.S. response to the new and important initiatives of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, one can see clearly that in his speech Reagan has sought all means to evade those urgent and burning issues. He only generally talked about a more secure, peaceful, and civilized world, about the advance to the 21st century; and so on.

As for the life and death of mankind -- that is, the question of dispelling and eliminating the danger of nuclear war, banning the militarization of space, and substantially reducing offensive nuclear weapons -- Reagan's speech only touched on this ambiguously and contained nothing realistic.

Unable to deny the constructive character of the new proposals and initiatives of the Soviet Union and of other socialist countries and in a position where he could not brazenly reject these proposals, the U.S. President only sought to appease public opinion with some very general promises to hold discussions, seek avenues, and put forth this and that proposal, and so forth. While trying to evade those major and pressing issues now concerning all mankind, U.S. President Reagan dealt at length with another problem, regional conflicts, which he distorted and about which he exposed dark U.S. machinations.

Reagan emphasized that he regards the problem of regional conflicts as a central theme for the coming U.S.-Soviet summit. He pointed out regional conflicts in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Angola, and Nicaragua and argued thoughtlessly that the responsibility for these conflicts rests with the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and Cuba.

The head of the U.S. Administration deliberately ignored the clear-cut truth about world problems that the United States has played the role of an international gendarme, about Israeli acts of aggression and intervention against Arab nations, and about the tension in South Africa caused by that country's hostile policy against its neighbors and its policy of apartheid, which advocates killing those people in the country rising up to demand democratic liberties.

When emphasizing the problem of regional conflicts and regarding this as a central issue to be discussed in the coming U.S.-Soviet talks, the U.S. Administration exposed its ill intention of altering the course of the talks. The purpose of this is to distract public attention from the Soviet Union's new peace initiatives and to cover up the U.S. attempt to evade the greatest problems of eliminating the danger of nuclear war, halting the arms race, promoting disarmament, and ensuring the peace and security of nations.

Assessing the attitude of the Reagan administration, the U.S. paper THE WASHINGTON POST said that so far, President Reagan has done nothing substantive. The French Press, in reporting Reagan's UN speech, pointed out the character of the U.S. Government's counter-attacks against the Soviet Union when Reagan is on the defensive and in a passive position due to this attempt to evade the problem of disarmament, which is now a source of concern to all mankind. A U.S.-based correspondent of the French paper LE MONDE assessed: The Soviet Union is definitely in a much stronger position because it has put forth an attractive and concrete proposal. As for the United States' Strategic Defense Initiative known as SDI, it is an audacious jump at the championship. French Prime Minister Fabius recently reasserted his French Government's decision not to participate in the United States' SDI program to militarize space. According to him, the United States' SDI program will only spur the arms race.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi highly acclaimed the Soviet Union's new peace initiatives aimed at halting the arms race on earth as well as in space.

At a debate of the UN First Committee on Security and Disarmament, delegates from many countries voiced their protests against the United States' SDI program, welcomed the Soviet Union's proposals, and called on the United States to follow the example of the Soviet Union by pledging not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

Today, peace-loving people in the world are realizing more clearly who is scrupulous and who is evading. The attitude of the U.S. Administration, as noted earlier, shows that the current struggle for peace by various nations is a very complex one, requiring a high sense of vigilance. However, this struggle now has a solid prop: the strength of the Soviet Union and the socialist system, the world peace movement, and the many existing realistic peace initiatives and proposals.

RADIO SCORES VOA, REAGAN VIEWS ON PRK, SRV

BK030929 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Station editor Duong Quang Minh's commentary: "The United States Launches a Slander Campaign Against Cambodia and Vietnam"]

[Text] On 29 October, VOA [Voice of America] aimed a distorted commentary on the Cambodian issue and Vietnamese-Cambodian relations. The radio loudly claimed that Vietnam must bear a heavy responsibility for killing 3 million Cambodians and displacing more than 4 million others during the Khmer Rouge reign in Cambodia. The same radio also slanderously charged that Vietnam is now directly occupying Cambodia and deciding all its domestic and foreign policies. It once again publicly affirmed the U.S. Government's position of continuing to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs in an effort, as the United States puts it, to struggle for an independent and sovereign Cambodia.

VOA's theme faithfully reflects the distorted view of the international situation deliberately held by the U.S. Government as part of a deceitful propaganda campaign authorized by U.S. President Reagan himself.

Public opinion has not forgotten that on 24 October, Mr Reagan delivered at the UN General Assembly an unacceptable address, in which he deliberately downplayed the crucial issue currently facing the international community -- that of opposing the nuclear arms race both on earth and in space and demanding that the Reagan administration respond to the pressing need to join the Soviet Union in reducing weapons of mass destruction. He intentionally highlighted what he referred to as regional conflicts, which are in reality revolutionary struggles of the peoples in many countries against reactionary forces acting as henchmen of the United States, including the struggles of the Nicaraguan, Afghan, Angolan, Cambodian, and other peoples. He loudly demanded that the international community pay attention first of all to seeking ways to eliminate these struggling nations.

It must additionally be pointed out here that, while deliberately distorting facts to escape public criticism, Mr Reagan tried to cast blame on the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Vietnam for the tense and unstable world situation for which the U.S. Administration is responsible both as mastermind and the executioner. The United States itself is waging undeclared wars against Nicaragua and Afghanistan; lending a hand to the Israeli administration in opposing the causes of the Palestinian, Lebanese, and other Arab peoples; and acting in complicity with the South African administration to oppose Angola, oppress Namibia, and repress the movement to demand the right to live and equality of the African community in South Africa. In Southeast Asia, the United States itself is colluding with reactionary forces in the region to warm up the Cambodian issue, which has cooled for so long, and to cook up fabricated stories and slanders against Vietnam in an attempt to bring pressure to bear on Vietnam in different fields and from various quarters in connection with a settlement of the Cambodian people.

Distorting the truth and casting the blame on others are familiar tricks employed by the U.S. Administration in international relations. Nevertheless, whatever tricks it may use, the Reagan administration -- defense attorney for the genocidal Pol Pot clique -- can neither cover up that clique's unpardonable crimes nor eliminate the all-too-thick files tabulating the crimes of warlike U.S. forces against Cambodia and three Indochinese countries as a whole. The Cambodian people cannot forget that the United States set up the lackey Lon Nol administration to oppose Cambodia's independence. Here and there in Cambodia traces are still visible of the crimes perpetrated by the United States when U.S. troops were dispatched to invade Cambodia and bombing missions were targeted against Cambodian territory.

Public opinion, still indignant at Washington's indifference to the genocide practiced by Pol Pot and his followers against the Cambodian people, cannot now overlook the fact that the Reagan administration is reverting to a life of crime by breathing life into the various Khmer reactionary forces to oppose the revival of Cambodia and by abetting Bangkok and turning Thailand into a U.S. arsenal in Asia and the Pacific to oppose the revolutionary cause of the three Indochinese countries and the developing trend of dialogue among countries in Southeast Asia.

In cooking up slanders against Vietnam, the U.S. Administration is trying to move against the recognition by broad sections of world public opinion of the unconcealable historical fact that it is the Vietnamese people themselves who have made a positive contribution to the uprising of the Cambodian people that toppled the Pol Pot clique after it had shown its reactionary nature by carrying out a genocidal policy at home and launching land-grabbing wars against neighboring countries. We vehemently denounce and condemn before public opinion all the propaganda allegations released by the Reagan administration against Vietnam and the just cause of the three Indochinese peoples.

EVENTS HELD TO MARK USSR REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

Emulation 'Teach-In' Held

OW021820 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 2 -- A teach-in on joint Vietnamese-Soviet socialist emulation was jointly held at the Vietnam-U.S.S.R. Friendship Workers' Cultural Palace, Hanoi, on Nov. 21 by the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions and the United Committee of the Soviet Trade Unions in Vietnam in anticipation of the 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the 7th anniversary of the signing of the Vietnam-U.S.S.R. treaty of friendship and cooperation.

Among those present were Nguyen Tho Chan, head of the Central Commission for Emulation; Vu Anh Tuan, vice president of the Vietnam-U.S.S.R. Friendship Association, and representatives of the party Central Committee's International Department and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; and others. Representatives of the Soviet Embassy and Soviet experts working at major projects in Vietnam were also present.

Twenty reports were read at the teach-in by Vietnamese managerial cadres and union leading members and Soviet experts, which brought out rich and useful experiences as well as practical results of the joint emulation movement in building material bases in Vietnam, strengthening the solidarity, friendship and all-round cooperation between the two countries. On this occasion, the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions and the all-union central council of trade unions of the U.S.S.R. presented certificates of merit and badges to 11 Soviet experts and 12 Vietnamese cadres and workers in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the joint Vietnamese-Soviet socialist emulation movement.

Amity Groups Gather

BK011701 Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct 1 [as received] -- A meeting was jointly held at the Agriculture College No 1, Hanoi, today to honour the 68th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution and to open "A Week of the Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship" by the Hanoi chapter and the college's sub-chapter of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association. Attending the function were Nguyen Huu Mai, vice president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, Vu Anh Tuan, vice-president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association and president of the sponsoring chapter; Hoang Xuan Tuy, vice-minister of secondary vocational and higher education; Nguyen Dang, vice-minister of agriculture; representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the International Department of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; and others.

Soviet Ambassador B.N. Chaplin and Pesanov, representative of the USSR-Vietnam Friendship Society in Vietnam were also on hand. Speaking at the meeting, Professor Mrs Tran Thi Nhi Huong, director of the college, pointed out:

"Over the past 60 years, the Soviet people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and with their creative labour, have won great achievements in building socialism, and defending world peace. As a close and faithful friend of the Soviet people, the Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at their achievements and wish them success in implementing the resolution of the 26th Congress of the CPSU, and in carrying out their emulation movement in anticipation of the CPSU's 27th Congress".

For his part, Ambassador B.N. Chaplin brought out the great achievements recorded by the Soviet Union in various fields, economic, cultural, scientific and technical, over the past 68 years, and its policy of peace, against the arms race, and preventing a nuclear war disaster.

He stressed:

"The relationship between the two parties and peoples of the Soviet Union and Vietnam has been constantly consolidated through their increasingly developed friendship and co-operation which are of great significance in the political and economic life of the two countries. The recent Soviet Union visit by a Vietnamese party and state delegation led by General Secretary Le Duan was a vivid manifestation of that relations. The Soviet people firmly believe that the heroic Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's testament, will build Vietnam into a firmer and stronger outpost of socialism in Southeast Asia.

Ambassador Meets Press

OW312020 Hanoi VNA in English 1557 GMT 31 Oct 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA, Oct 31 -- Soviet Ambassador B.N. Chaplin held a press conference here this morning in celebration of the 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The Soviet diplomat briefed the press about the great achievements recorded by the Soviet people in all spheres of the construction and defence of the first worker-peasant state in the world, especially in the implementation of the resolutions of the 26th party congress and in the current emulation movement in honour of the forthcoming 27th congress of the party. Introducing the draft of the new amendments to the programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Ambassador B.N. Chaplin pointed to the main trends of the revolution of the world situation as reflected in the new amendments of the programme, in the Soviet assessment of the schemes and acts of the imperialists, especially the U.S. imperialists, in their frantic activities to counter the revolution, push forward the arms race and militarize the outer space, as well as in the necessary measures set forth in the amendments to the programme aimed at averting the danger of war and safeguarding world peace. That is also a programme for a planned and overall perfection of socialism and continued advance to communism on the basis of the strengthening of the socio-economic standing of the country. That is a programme of the struggle for peace and social progress, the ambassador stressed.

Touching on the Vietnamese-Soviet relations, the Soviet ambassador said that this is a relationship of coordinated actions in a comradely spirit and in the complete unity of views between the two parties. It has been raised to a higher level and become an inseparable part of the social, political and economic life of the two countries, he said. He recalled party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's recent reaffirmation of the Soviet Union's constant support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in their national defence and construction.

NEW ZEALANDFRENCH AGENTS' TRIAL SPARKS 'BARGAIN' SPECULATIONS

HK040544 Wellington Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Text] The two French agents charged in connection with the fatal sabotage attack on the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior today pleaded guilty to charges of manslaughter and willful damage. The guilty plea in the Auckland district court followed the announcement that the crown had dropped two more serious charges against the pair. These were murder and conspiracy to commit arson. Today's hearing lasted only about half an hour, this had led to speculation that some form of bargain may have been struck.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Reporters were caught napping by today's guilty plea, which effectively hushes up the details of the French secret service operation. However, it is said the whisper around legal circles has been [words indistinct] 3-week hearing of evidence. Plea bargaining is a process not often used, but lawyers said there is nothing wrong with it. The court today heard an 8-page summary read out by the solicitor general, but it contained nothing we have not heard from media reports over the past 4 months. The true details may not have emerged, although there are several writers well into manuscripts of books on the subject. The next court appearance will be for sentencing in the high court in Auckland in 2 and 1/2 weeks time. [end recording]

The prime minister says it's inevitable that the evidence concerning the Rainbow Warrior bombing and the guilty pleas entered at the hearing of Dominique Prieur and Alain Mafart will be made public. Mr Lange said it's also up to the judge to deal with the case, and he can't dictate that process himself.

[Begin Lange recording] I think it is perhaps inevitable that the material will be released, because a tribunal could not be seen to have imposed a sentence otherwise than against the background of the circumstances which led up to that judgment, but that again is a matter for the tribunal. But certainly I see no reason why that ought not now be put in the public arena. [end recording]

The prime minister says it's likely that the evidence available in the case will be revealed before sentence is passed. The leader of the opposition, Jim McLay, has called on the attorney general, Geoffrey Palmer, to give an assurance that there has been no plea bargaining in the Rainbow Warrior case. Mr McLay said the public must be told immediately if the government and its advisers have done a deal with the two French spies under which the serious murder and arson charges were withdrawn in return for guilty pleas on the lesser charge of manslaughter.

Lange Denies Involvement

HK040314 Hong Kong AFP in English 0237 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Text] Wellington, Nov 4 (AFP) -- Prime Minister David Lange today said that there was absolutely no involvement of the New Zealand Government in the prosecution's decision to drop the murder charge against two French secret agents arrested after the bombing of the Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior. The two French officers, Major Alain Mafart and Captain Dominique Prieur, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter at today's preliminary hearing in Auckland. Mr. Lange denied that he might have known something about the decision beforehand or done something about it. He told a press conference: "I can assure you that is not the case. The question of the plea was a matter for the crown, not the politicians. It was a decision taken entirely by those people who advise the crown with respect to proceedings."

OFFICIAL CRITICIZES ISLAMIC ELECTION BOARD

BK010309 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 24 Oct 85 pp 1, 7

[Text] Jakarta -- Rusli Desa, vice chairman of the parliamentary commission on political and security affairs, says that during the upcoming general election religion should not be abused for political advantage because all sociopolitical forces in Indonesia have accepted Pancasila as their sole ideology.

Speaking to reporters at the Senayan parliamentary building yesterday [23 October], Rusli Desa said that during his recent working visit to Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, he noticed that the region was totally stable. However, one thing that surprised and annoyed him was the existence of an "Islamic General Elections Board" on Pangeran Samudra Road in Banjarmasin that had been established by one of the sociopolitical forces in that region supposedly in anticipation of the 1987 general election. Obviously, the establishment of such an institution contravenes with the laws on political parties and functional groups.

According to Rusli Desa, if such an institution is allowed to remain in existence, we are experiencing a setback because according to Law No. 3/1985, all sociopolitical parties must accept Pancasila as their sole principle. In other words, there will be no sociopolitical forces stressing the importance of religion to attract voters in the upcoming general election. This has confirmed the recent remarks of M. Panggabean, chief of the Functional Group [Golkar] Advisory Board, that one of the sociopolitical forces will still use religious themes in its election campaigns. Rusli stressed that Muslims can be found in the membership of Golkar, the United Development Party, and the Indonesian Nationalist Party. Therefore, no sociopolitical force should be allowed to abuse any religion for political advantage. For this reason, Rusli Desa called on the home affairs minister to take action against such institutions, otherwise there will be general election boards for Buddhists, Roman Catholics, Protestants, and Hindus as well as for Muslims. We should avoid the establishment of such institutions to safeguard national unity and integrity.

TRADE OFFICE TO OPEN IN HO CHI MINH CITY IN 1986

BK020822 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Indonesia will open a trade representative's office in Ho Chi Minh City next year to promote trade relations with Vietnam. Jukardi Odang, head of the Indonesian trade delegation which visited Vietnam recently, said in Jakarta yesterday that the visit by the 15-member delegation was at the invitation of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Jukardi Odang said that the visit by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation was aimed at promoting trade relations with that country and studying the possibility of exporting Indonesian products in line with the government's policy of seeking new markets for non-petroleum products. He added that the visit will have positive political effects in addition to positive trade effects field because it is hoped that after the visit Vietnam will open up. Thus, its current dependence on socialist-communist countries can be gradually reduced.

VISITING HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TRADE

BK310940 Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 31 Oct 85

[Excerpt] The visiting Hungarian deputy minister of treasury, Dr (?Andras Gabor) said in Jakarta yesterday that his country is open for a counter purchase or barter contract with Indonesia. Speaking to newsmen on his country's participation in the just opened electric Indonesia Exhibition 85 at the Jakarta Fairground in Jakarta, Dr (?Andras Gabor) said his country is prepared to do this in the light of stepping up trade relations with Indonesia. The Hungarian deputy minister is in Indonesia at the head of a Hungarian Chamber of Commerce delegation.

MARCOS ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR JANUARY SNAP ELECTION

HK032348 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 3 Nov 85

[Text] President Marcos last night [3 November] announced plans to call a special or snap election for president and vice president in January 1986. He said he will call a caucus of the ruling KBL party to decide on his election plans before the Batasan resumes regular session on November 11.

President Marcos announced his snap presidential election plans during an interview in the ABC television program entitled "This Week" with David Brinkley. The Brinkley program was beamed live via satellite to televiewers in the United States.

The president said he was calling the unscheduled poll primarily to resolve fundamental issues which have been raised and which may affect the effectivity of the institution of government, including the Armed Forces. President Marcos also said the snap election will give the legitimate political opposition the opportunity to unite and field a common candidate.

To Call KBL Caucus

HK040443 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 4 Nov 8

[Text] A KBL caucus may be called any day this week to discuss the special presidential election. President Marcos said last night a special election may take place in January. He said he would call a KBL caucus before the Batasan resumes its session on Monday. The president said he would seek the advice of the caucus, but will exert his influence to bring back separate special elections as soon as possible. He said he could then issue a decree or an order which will allow him to call the special election for president as well as for vice president. [Marcos recording indistinct]

President Marcos' announcement of a special election for president came one day after he declared that the KBL preparation for the coming polls is complete. The chief executive said only minor details will have to be threshed out. [Marcos recording indistinct]

OPPOSITION WELCOMES MARCOS ELECTION DECISION

HK040044 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0030 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Text] President Marcos said yesterday he is willing to hold elections in 3 months or less to settle questions of his popularity. He understands the opposition has been asking for an election. In answer to their request, he announced that he is ready to call a snap election perhaps earlier than 8 months, perhaps in 3 months or less. This was declared by the president during a television appearance on ABC's "This Week" with David Brinkley.

He said he is ready to call the snap election, but he has to submit this to some of his leaders in the legislature, but the president said he is confident he could convince the legislature, because his supporters control two-thirds of the membership. The president said he would not limit participation by any opposition candidate in such an election. Anyone could participate.

Even though national elections are not scheduled until 1987, the president said he is willing to call an election sooner, because the stability and effectiveness of his government was being questioned.

Meantime, Philippine opposition leaders today welcomed the president's announcement of a possible snap election within 3 months, and said the opposition candidate would either be former Senator Salvador Laurel or the widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

Prepares for Elections

HK040534 Hong Kong AFP in English 0522 GMT 4 Nov 85

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, Nov 4 (AFP) -- Opposition leaders began meeting today and the ruling party prepared for a caucus this week following President Ferdinand Marcos's surprise announcement of a plan to hold a snap presidential poll in January. Mr Marcos disclosed the plan late yesterday in an interview with a U.S. television network, after months of speculation that a snap election would be called before his current six-year term ends in 1987.

Washington is worried over the future of this insurgency-rocked country, which hosts two major U.S. military bases, and has reportedly pressed for a snap poll. A number of senior U.S. officials have visited recently. Mr Marcos has been president since 1965, ruling by martial law from September 1972 to January 1981.

The largest opposition party, the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (Unido), led by former Senator Salvador Laurel, said immediately after the announcement that it was ready to face Mr Marcos in a snap poll and demanded guarantees of a fair election. Mr Laurel, the frontrunner to become the divided opposition's candidate, has been unofficially campaigning since August. He is now in the United States, reportedly for meetings with U.S. Government and congressional figures.

Corazon Aquino, the popular widow of Mr Marcos's slain political rival Benigno Aquino, today refused to comment on whether she would run in a January poll, saying she had yet to consult the opposition convenor group which she leads. Mrs Aquino, who has been pressed by supporters to be a candidate, said recently that she would only consider [running] in a snap election and only if her supporters could get the million signatures of endorsement they had pledged.

Unido and ruling New Society Movement (KBL) party figures debated the probability and constitutionality of the election at a press forum here. The opposition said there had been pressure from U.S. officials and creditors of this debt-ridden country for a snap poll, which KBL leader denied.

Business leaders interviewed here agreed that there was U.S. pressure but expressed more concern over the effects of a snap poll on the economy, which for two years has been suffering its worst crisis since World War II.

Unido Vice-President Rene Espina, who stood in for Mr Laurel, told the press forum: "We are ready (for the poll) because we prepared for it." M.P. Luis Villafuerte, another Unido leader, said that under the Constitution, Mr Marcos must resign before the election to create a vacancy. However, Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roro said that constitutionally there was no need for Mr Marcos to quit. He said he believed the snap poll would go ahead, and denied that the announcement was a "propaganda ploy."

However, M.P. Arturo Tolentino, a maverick member of the KBL, told the forum that the snap election may be unconstitutional and that Mr Marcos might be "persuaded" to cancel the plan later. The respected constitutionalist said a snap poll would "practically confirm" reports that Mr Marcos was ailing and there were external pressures on him to call the election.

Mr Tolentino, fired as foreign minister by the president in March for his independent political views, said the constitution did not provide for an election before the end of Mr Marcos's term unless the post was vacated.

Businessman Jose Concepcion, head of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), a volunteer poll watchers' group, said separate presidential and local elections would result in inflation and further weaken the peso against the dollar.

"The country can't afford two elections in one year... each would probably cost not less than two billion pesos (107 million dollars)," he said.

Jaime Ongpin, head of the largest mining conglomerate in the country, Benguet, proposed instead of a snap poll a plebiscite to amend the Constitution and "synchronize" the presidential with the local government polls in May. The businessmen were cautious when asked if early elections would lead to a more favorable business climate. Mr Concepcion said it would lead to stability if all parties had sufficient time to organize and consolidate their ranks "and provided the military remain neutral and the government guarantees clean and honest elections."

Mr Ongpin said: "It depends on who will win the elections. If Marcos wins, then I think it would be horrible. If the opposition wins, businessmen would think there is a real chance for change."

Statement Issued

OW040813 Tokyo KYODO in English 0802 GMT 4 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Manila, Nov. 4 KYODO -- Philippine opposition leaders Monday welcomed a Sunday midnight announcement of President Ferdinand Marcos that he planned to hold a snap election for president -- but not vice president -- on January 17 next year. Opposition leaders held an emergency meeting at a private suburban house to await more details about election mechanics from the presidential palace. They issued a brief statement welcoming the planned polls, but emphasizing that the Constitution must be followed.

Mrs. Corazon Aquino, 52, who has been pushed in the past few weeks into the role of reluctant front-runner as the opposition's presidential challenger to Marcos, acted as secretary of the opposition leaders' meeting. Asked by KYODO NEWS SERVICE if she believed Marcos would in fact hold the election in January, Mrs. Aquino said: "I really don't know who can understand or believe Marcos."

The chairman of the opposition meeting was another woman, retired Supreme Court Justice Mrs. Cecilia Munoz Palma, now an elected opposition member of parliament for the Metropolitan Manila suburban area of Quezon City. Mrs. Munoz Palma is chairman of a multiparty ad hoc group called National Unification Committee (NUC) set up in March this year to choose a single presidential candidate from nominees of various opposition parties. The committee issued a statement which said:

"We welcome the announcement of the president that he may call a snap election. However, it is our view that a snap election must follow the Constitution. "We reserve further comment until Malacanang (presidential palace) gives full details. The opposition reaffirms its intention to field a full slate in elections."

Besides the reluctant, undeclared candidacy of Mrs Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, the only duly nominated opposition presidential candidate is former Senator Salvador Laurel, at present on a two-week visit to the United States. Laurel is president of the biggest opposition party, the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO). UNIDO, formerly an umbrella organization for political parties, but now registered as a full-fledged political party itself, won largely one-third of the National Assembly seats in elections in May 1984.

Deputy Prime Minister Jose Rono, Mr Marcos chief election organizer, told reporters that the opposition is wrong to consider Marcos is bluffing about the January 17 date. But opposition leaders said the Marcos plan appeared to violate several constitutional provisions. They said the possibility of such violations could be extremely dangerous to the opposition because it could mean that if Marcos lost -- they could declare that the election was unconstitutional from the start.

Alternately, the military could possibly use the argument of unconstitutionality to stage a coup and void the election if they wished.

Among the potential violations cited by the opposition was the holding of an early snap election without a people's referendum to authorize the date being advanced. Another problem they foresaw was that Marcos claimed in his written press release that he would issue a presidential decree amending the Constitution to add a new mandate without resigning. They said Marcos could not be considered to be above the Constitution by decree. This provision would allow Marcos to remain in office and campaign as incumbent president with full influence over the government, military and electoral machinery, they said.

Opposition leaders pointed out that the Constitution allows a snap election only if the presidency is vacant through the president's permanent disability, death, removal from office through impeachment, or resignation. They said there was no provision that would allow a president to stay in office and preside over an election merely aimed at giving himself a new mandate. They say Marcos must resign and vacate the palace and apparatus of power, allowing the national assembly speaker to take over and preside over election. They added that under the Constitution the vacancy would automatically be filled by the vice president. However, the vice presidency has been vacant since President Marcos abolished the former system by declaring martial law in Sept. 1972. The vice presidency was not refilled when martial law was lifted in 1981.

Oppositionists say the main justification for an early election would be to fill the vice presidency to ensure smooth transition if the president should die in office. But they say Marcos is avoiding getting a vice president -- meaning he is perpetuating what many consider a dangerous situation of not having a clear successor, particularly since Marcos is believed to be sick.

MOTIVE SOUGHT IN MARCOS' PHYSICIAN'S MURDER

OW020657 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 2 Nov 85

[Text] Manila, Nov. 2 KYODO -- Manila police authorities are still trying Saturday to establish the motive behind the kidnap-slaying of a kidney specialist who is one of the physicians being consulted by President Ferdinand Marcos.

Dr. Potenciano Bacay, 45, vice president of the government-funded National Kidney Foundation, was found dead with 20 stab wounds Friday afternoon, 18 hours after five armed men robbed his home in Muntinlupa, 20 kilometers south of Manila, past midnight November 1 and took him away in his own van.

"We are still conducting the investigation and we have not established the motive behind the kidnap and the murder," a police officer in Muntinlupa municipality told KYODO NEWS SERVICE Saturday. He added that Bacay's wife Marietta informed the police that the murdered doctor was one of the physicians attending to Marcos, 68, who is reported suffering from a degenerative kidney ailment.

Bacay was found dead, bleeding from chest wounds, inside his van in a residential area in Metropolitan Manila's financial district of Makati, more than 15 kilometers away from his home. Manila newspapers quoted unidentified policemen as saying that they did not believe robbery could have been the motive because the armed men had waited for Bacay, his wife and two children to arrive home from a visit to the cemetery, even after they had already ransacked his house. The armed men took off with an undermined amount of cash and other valuables. The opposition newspaper ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA (free press) said Police Brig. Gen Alfredo Yson, commander of Metropolitan Manila's eastern police district including Muntinlupa, was summoned by Marcos at the presidential palace "for instructions." Yson was not available for direct comment.

ANALYSTS SPECULATE ON ELECTION POSSIBILITIES

HK041015 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 4 Nov 85

[By Teodoro Benigno]

[Text] Manila, Nov 4 (AFP) -- There is little likelihood the Philippines will stage snap presidential elections in January despite President Ferdinand Marcos' shock announcement last night he would seek such a mandate, according to analysts. Even as opposition leaders started meeting today to formulate their strategy for the snap elections, the majority of political observers were agreed the ailing 68-year-old Filipino strongman was simply floating a trial balloon.

Only ex-Senator Salvador Laurel, president of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO), came out strongly for the snap elections, saying "we are ready to fight Marcos in any elections." Corazon Aquino, widow of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino and, like Mr Laurel, a frontliner for the opposition's presidential bid, declined any comment as she met with her own group of opposition leaders today.

Political experts are also agreed that in announcing their snap polls, the politically astute Mr Marcos sought to gain political capital in Washington where top officials have long clamored for "clean and honest elections" here. Washington officialdom has long felt these elections could help restore democracy here in the face of mounting communist insurgency, continuing economic crisis and the alleged refusal of Mr Marcos to heed the popular clamour for widespread reforms. Nonetheless, analysts said, the possibility of snap elections on January 17, as announced by the president, was remote for the following reasons:

-- An electoral campaign covering the entire Christmas period would be "unacceptable" and "unthinkable" for about 50 million Roman Catholics who consider the Christmas and New Year holidays sacred.

-- Despite Mr Laurel's readiness to tilt with the president, the majority of opposition leaders are opposed to Mr Marcos' refusal to resign or step down while running for another six-year term as mandated by the Constitution. Already, M.P. Cecilia Monoz-Palma, who heads an umbrella opposition group, announced she would urge her opposition colleagues to boycott the snap polls if the president used his emergency legislative powers to stay in office.

-- The president, because of his fragile health, cannot wage a nationwide campaign, and even his closest aides and advisers feel it would be "counterproductive" to campaign largely on radio and television.

-- A January 17 presidential election, to be followed by the May 1986 local elections, would entail massive expenses amounting to billions of pesos and this would devastate an already crippled economy.

At a time when the Marcos government's economic recovery program was stagnating, analysts said, the country's economy could go into a tailspin far worse than last year's negative 5.5 percent growth and this year's expected 4.0 percent contraction.

-- While playing to the U.S. gallery, the Philippine president may actually be planning to synchronize the presidential and local elections next year but just wants to test the political waters.

Some analysts, however, argued that the president may be serious about holding snap elections because his health was falling fast and it may be too late for him to run in May next year or May 1987 when his term ends. U.S. intelligence sources have claimed the president is sick with lupus erythematosus, a degenerative disease that attacks vital organs, and a U.S. congressman was quoted as saying he had only six months to live. It was also possible, they added, that the president, should he fall seriously ill, may field his powerful wife Imelda, whose approval rating of 50 percent in a recent survey topped that of her husband who only got 44 percent.

But an Imelda Marcos candidacy, according to analysts, would be severely opposed by Washington, many of whose ranking officials feel her candidacy would be "divisive" and cause more social unrest. For many months now, Imelda Marcos has ridden the crest of reports and allegations that she and her husband have stashed hundreds of millions of dollars abroad through the purchase of lavish mansions and real estate properties.

The United States' intense preoccupation with the Philippines is largely due to the presence of its two largest overseas bases in this country, the Subic Naval Base, homeport of the Seventh Fleet, and Clark Air Base. If the communists take over here, it is feared, they could easily give the Soviets access to the base sites resulting in strategic disaster for the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. Mrs Marcos' recent visit to Moscow and her meeting with Soviet President Andrey Gromyko has fueled speculation the Marcos Government is playing the "Soviet card" as a counterpoise to escalating U.S. pressure.

Political observers claimed that if synchronized elections were held next year, the court trying the Benigno Aquino murder trial might postpone its verdict until after the polls. The verdict is expected this December and a mass acquittal of Armed Forces chief General Fabian Ver and 23 other military personnel and a civilian indicted in the alleged military conspiracy would give the opposition a mighty campaign boost, they added.

Another factor for concern, the observers said, was the statement of Stephen Solarz, chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee for Asian and Pacific Affairs and a long-time critic of Mr Marcos. He said in Washington that "an election fraught with fraud would produce enormous disappointment" and "could drive the opposition toward the communists if they conclude the election is a charade."

Political observers concluded that time was fast running out in this country for the United States, and unless rising political and social tensions are defused within one year, the communist tide in the country might be irreversible. The communists, now 15,000-strong, threaten to drive the government into a "strategic stalemate" in three years. They then aim to take over the Philippines in a "strategic offensive."

MRS MARCOS INVITES ANDREY GROMYKO TO VISIT-IN 1986

HK040903 Manila METRO MANILA TIMES in English 2 Nov 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 31 -- Russia will not meddle in the internal affairs of the Philippines, much more interfere with its insurgency problem in line with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic's avowed policy of fostering world peace. This was the assurance given by Soviet President Andrey Gromyko during a 90-minute meeting with the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, at the building of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR at the Kremlin.

Gromyko said: "The USSR and the Philippines have nothing to dispute, especially in the international political areas," adding "both countries believe in peace." Gromyko said world peace was also the goal of the USSR participation in the summit meeting with the United States. "The USSR is seriously looking for solution to the problems -- to prevent war, disarmament, stop the arms race being continued in outer space," he said. He also said small countries should not just watch and let the giants fight each other because another war would affect all of mankind regardless of ideology, race and country. He stressed that "majority of countries and all peoples are against war."

Commenting on the bad publicity the Philippines, President and Mrs. Marcos get from the Western press, Gromyko said: "As far as our publicity in the U.S. is concerned with photos of the USSR, they can publish good pictures only inadvertently." Mrs. Marcos, for her part, thanked President Gromyko for the policy of noninterference. She invited him to attend the historic 10th year anniversary of Philippine-Soviet ties on June 2, next year. Gromyko said bilateral relations on all aspects of culture should be developed and trade and economic ties should be pushed more aggressively.

Mrs. Marcos recalled to Gromyko the fruitful trade talks with Foreign Trade Minister Boris Aristov, who outlined the possibilities for expanding trade between the two countries. She cited statistics to Gromyko indicating the Philippines' economic recovery such as the decline in the inflation rate from 63 per cent last year to 12 percent last month. Interest rates dropped from more than 40 per cent last year to about 14 per cent in October and the balance of payments was becoming positive. "Since the Philippine economy is improving, we feel we should accelerate our trade with your country and in the process contribute to the improvement of our economy and thus lead to better effort in the promotion of peace," Mrs. Marcos said.

Gromyko replied: "I have listened very attentively to what you said and I am sure our fellow Soviets have done so." He stressed the First Lady's efforts in the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Soviet Union nine years ago. "I remember those times when the pointers of history showed the way and brought out the time when we established good neighborly relations between our countries."

Mrs. Marcos also thanked the Supreme Soviet Presidium for "an overwhelmingly warm welcome and unexpected fruitful mission of the Philippine delegation in Moscow and Georgia." She asked Gromyko to convey greetings and gratitude to Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev who was in Bulgaria during the visit.

Mrs. Marcos was accompanied by Labor Minister Blas Ople, Supreme Court Justice Hermogenes Concepcion, Assemblymen Manuel Garcia, Arturo Pacificador, Rafael Recto, Cebu Gov. Ed Gullas and NEDA [National Economic and Development Authority] Deputy Minister Ramon Cardenas. Assistant Majority Floor Leader Pacificador remarked that the meeting was a "major breakthrough in strengthening bilateral relations between the Philippines and the Soviet Union. It is done with frankness and sincerity." Garcia, also an assistant majority floor leader, commented "the talks exceeded our expectation. He is obviously happy with the relationship between our two countries."

VALENCIA CONTRASTS SOVIET, U.S. POLICIES

HK030200 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0100 GMT 3 Nov 85

["Analysis of the News" By Teodoro Valencia]

[Excerpts] The first lady, Mrs Imelda Marcos, is now in Japan leading a delegation of government officials on an unofficial visit to Japan. She will be there for 6 days, during which time she and her party will be meeting with minister of foreign Affairs, Mr Shintaro Abe, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, and other top-level government officials and representatives.

She just planed in from Moscow, where she met with the Foreign Minister Shevardnaze, followed by the signing of the 1985-86 cultural exchange program between the Philippines and the Soviet Union.

Incidentally, the Soviets came out with a statement following the completion of the visit of Mrs Marcos, that the Soviet Union is eager to help the Philippines economically, and that the Soviet Union will not interfere in the domestic affairs of the Philippines, nor will the Soviets do anything to help the rebel movement in this country. Non-intervention is the Soviet policy. Well this is a contrast, a very indirect criticism of the American policy of direct intervention and dictating to the Philippine government authorities on what to do with themselves and lecturing us on what is right for this country.

During the visit of Mrs Marcos to Japan, she will have an opportunity to exchange views with the [words indistinct] Japanese Government. Hopefully, the Filipinos will be able to forge an understanding with the Japanese independent of the Americans, because it would seem now that all Japan has been doing so far is to echo or follow the views given to them by the United States. It is in the interests of the Japanese to take a more independent line in their dealings with ASEAN countires [words indistinct] need us in the ASEAN rapprochement with Japan, particularly because we were one of the most hurt in the war between 1941 and 1945. The first lady we hope will also be able to forge understandings with foreign and Japanese corporations eager to find out what is the role they must play in Southeast Asia, and particualrly in the Philippines.

DISCLOSURE OF MARCOS MEMO TO REAGAN DEMANDED

HK011227 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 25 Oct 85 pp 1, 6

[By Ben Evardone]

[Excerpt] The Opposition in the Batasan yesterday demanded full disclosure of the contents of the 200-page memorandum which President Marcos submitted to President Reagan. MP Hjalmar Quintana, (Opp, Quezon) took the floor and also demanded that the Batasan be furnished a copy of Mr. Reagan's letter to Mr. Marcos which was delivered recently by U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt.

The Batasang Pambansa went on recess last night after it failed to resolve the issue of accreditation of a dominant opposition party in the proposed omnibus election code. It will reconvene on Nov. 11. The opposition submitted a proposal to recognize only one dominant opposition party [DOP] nationwide for purposes of the 1986 and 1987 and presidential elections, respectively. However, the KBL and the Caucus of Independents wanted a province by province recognition of DOP. The unresolved minor issues were: the provision on the citizens' issues affecting the country, particularly communication of the chief executive to a foreign country," he said.

Quintana said he took the move after both Malacanang and White House refused to disclose fully to the public the message of Mr. Reagan to Mr. Marcos and the results of the dialog between Mr. Marcos and Laxalt. Laxalt, campaign manager of Reagan, reportedly sent the "bluntest" in U.S. message to President Marcos on the growing communist insurgency in the Philippines.

TATAD DISCUSSES TIME DELEGATION'S VISIT

HK011545 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 1 Nov 85 p 4

["Here and Now" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "'Affadavit Mentality'"]

[Text] All that was needed was for the TIME-LIFE Newstour '85 to come to Manila and the U.S. media to start talking again about Mr. Marcos's systemic lupus erythematosus, and suddenly the 60-year-old Malacanang recluse was shown jogging and golfing again in the news film clips, and NPA "regulars" and "sympathizers" were surrendering in droves all over the place. The newstour was composed of about 55 U.S. big business and news media executives. Although their visit had been prepared months ago, it coincided with, and assumed special significance in the face of increasing U.S. official pressure to get Marcos to adopt urgent and necessary political and economic reforms. The group met with selected opposition leaders on Tuesday evening before meeting with Marcos the next day, obviously to get both sides. They showed concern about the country's stability and much of their questions revealed a deep anxiety about the future of the military bases.

Such was the perceived importance of the tour that the National Democratic Front [NDF], described as the NPA's political counterpart, sent in a formal message welcoming the visit. It was a well-crafted message, in street American English, without any of the anti-imperialist jargon and denunciatory language usually found in the standard NDF reference to the U.S. and to American big business. Its message was to the point: Withdraw your support from Marcos, and we'll do the rest. It spoke of a willingness to dialogue: to consider the possibility of working with American presence in the country under "a less corrupt government"; and to join a coalition that may be organized by the "legal opposition" -- post-Marcos.

For its part, Malacanang had been so eager to exploit the visit that months ago, while TIME-LIFE was still trying to keep the matter under wraps, it made a unilateral and premature announcement of the event to the consternation of TIME's representatives. The announcement was reissued, again unilaterally, a couple of weeks before the visit. Until late Tuesday evening, news was flying around within the group that the peripatetic First Lady, who had just conquered the UN and the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, and "enshrined" an image of the Blessed Virgin in a Moscow cathedral preparatory to the conversation of Russia, would shorten the discharge of her solemn obligations to the Russian people in order to host the group at dinner Wednesday evening. Either bad weather, which has been the scourge of Soviet agriculture since 1917, or an urgent call from Comrade Gorbachev must have intervened.

There is no reason to say that the importance Marcos chose to attach to the visit was misplaced. It was an important group, and what its members have to say later could affect U.S. official perceptions about the Philippines. Precisely because of this, there should have been a more perceptive and discriminating use of propaganda in trying to claim physical indestructibility for Marcos and untold successes for his counterinsurgency. The Office of Media Affairs could have learned some lessons from the NDF.

It takes an almost blinding mindlessness, in my view, to suppose even for a moment that 55 executives who have made it to the top of their careers in the news media and other fields would not know how to tell an old film clip from a new one, nor ask questions why so-called NPA "sympathizers" were surrendering to the government. Wherever have you heard of sympathizers surrendering to anyone? It was, I thought, a cheap and vulgar trick, unworthy of any government.

But I think there is an explanation which goes beyond the particular incident. I think the regime has become a victim of its own "affidavit mentality."

Everytime it wants to establish a claim or prove a point, it produces an affidavit, even if its only merit is to falsify reality. U.S. President Reagan sends Sen. Paul Laxalt to express his concern about the insurgency, and instantly Marcos produces a 200-page memorandum showing the success of counter-insurgency. Ted Koppel asks an embarrassing question on American TV, and instantly Marcos shows him a copy of the DAILY EXPRESS to show "facts to the contrary."

Someone scream murder or rape, and instantly he is shown a decree that erases crime against life or chastity. A marathon runner claims his prize at the end of the game, and somebody else comes up to claim the same prize not on the basis of having run the race and won, but on the basis of an affidavit saying he had run the race and won.

So, it happens that even while one's kidneys have ceased to work, one's face has become ashen, eyes glassy, lips dry and cracked, and speech slurred, and one can only walk slowly, very slowly, one has to project an image of indestructibility. Pure conceit; vanity.

And yet this game cannot possibly be played forever. One day the regime will have to recognize that every single person it has ever sought to deceive will no longer be deceived, and that the time has come to face up to reality. All men are mortal, says the Aristotelian syllogism, and Marcos is a man; he is as mortal as those whom he hopes to bury. And now on the 20th year of his presidency, a quagmire has opened beneath his feet, which goes by the name of declining physical health, loss of confidence, unprecedented economic turbulence, and rapidly growing insurgency. He must see this quagmire as it is, not as he wants it to be. And the one word for it is sanity.

VALENCIA COMMENTS ON U.S. 'PROPAGANDA'

HK011539 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 1 Nov 85 p 4

[From the "Over a Cup of Coffee" column by Teodoro F. Valencia: "The U.S. Game Plan for RP"]

[Excerpt] The game plan is easy to read. The Americans want no objections from the Filipino side. They also want to pick ranking AFP officers. If possible, they want Americans to run the AFP, just to make sure they assure the safety of Clark and Subic. In the process, the Filipinos must be sacrificed. They're only chips. The Americans are playing for higher stakes, so they believe.

In this game, they'll use the U.S. press to the hilt. They know that Filipinos believe anything that appears in the American newspapers. They'll utilize Filipinos whose ambitions for power mean they'll do anything to attain power. They'll enlist the cooperation of other nations willing to move to the tune of the Pentagon. American policies in this country center around their bases, how to make them useful. All other considerations are secondary. Or not important at all. The plan is to subdue Filipino nationalism and make us American colonials without any obligation on the part of the United States. In other words, they are out to make us so miserable we may surrender and accept our role as colonials. They'll never win that game. They can only tear up this country like what they did to Vietnam and Korea but they'll pay the price themselves. Theirs is also a losing game like ours.

As far as I can make out, those patently false, misleading and gratuitous conclusions being peddled by the American press about President Marcos' health, the insurgency situation in the Philippines, and our economy can only come under the heading of propaganda. The real objective is not purveying news but to foist lies calculated to justify whatever the U.S. wants to do in this country. At the root of everything is the obvious plan to strengthen the American bases with no objections from the Filipino people.

While the U.S. press and Washington officials talk about withdrawing from the Philippines, they are pouring \$1.3 billion into new housing, modern facilities and other infrastructures to beef up the Clark Base and Subic installations. The Americans are preparing for a long stay while they talk as if we must persuade them to stay. This has been going on since 1945 as far as I can remember. Anybody who stands in the way must be eliminated. All objections must be stopped at all costs. President Marcos must go if he is not agreeable.

In 1946, during the negotiations for U.S. bases in the independent Republic of the Philippines, the Americans wanted something like 48 bases. Then Vice President Elpidio Quirino balked. He leaked the information to us who were then covering Malacanang -- the newspapers loudly objected and alerted the people. The negotiations settled down for Clark, Subic, the R and R facilities in Baguio and a few radio installations, one of them at Poro Point. Quirino paid dearly for his stand. The Americans put him down in the Quirino-Magsaysay presidential fight. They could not do it earlier during the Laurel-Quirino contest because they were even more afraid of Laurel.

MARCOS NOTES DECLINING INFLATION RATE IN OCTOBER

HK012356 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] President Marcos said yesterday [1 November] that the inflation rate for the month of October went down by nearly 2 percentage points to 10.78 percent, as consumer prices remained stable in most parts of the country. The chief executive said that the October inflation figure is a clear indication that the economy is headed for single-digit inflation by the end of the year. The inflation rate was estimated to be 1.92 percent lower than the 12.7 inflation rate recorded during the month of August. The president said there has been a more significant decline in the inflation rate for areas outside Metro Manila.

MARCOS: GOVERNMENT CAN DEFEAT INSURGENCY IN 1 YEAR

HK012352 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES reported yesterday President Marcos' belief that government troops can overcome communist insurgents within a year with continued U.S. military assistance.

The TIMES said the president brushed aside U.S. concern that his government was in danger of being overthrown, saying U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt visited the Philippines last month partly to see if he is a doddering old man who can barely issue orders.

The president also rejected U.S. warnings of a political and military crisis in the Philippines, and indicated irritation with continuing U.S. pressure on him. President Marcos also denied that the communist New People's Army could eventually achieve a strategic stalemate with government forces. He said U.S. analysts who made the prediction overestimated the rebels' strength. Mr Marcos also warned that dissention between the Philippines and the United States could be an invitation to Vietnamese or Soviet meddling. He said he will continue to support the U.S. military presence in the Philippines.

VIRATA ON 4-POINT ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

HK011515 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 1 Nov 85 p 8

[Text] Prime Minister Cesar Virata has spelled-out a four-pronged approach to the country's national economic recovery program in 1986, which he described as a "growth year for the Philippines after several years of recession."

Virata, concurrently chairman of the presidential council for national economic recovery, said the measures are:

- Maximize the efficient use of government resources to increase operating surplus available for investment.
- More productive use of assets that are now fully utilized, by improving technology, supply working capital, improving their management, or trusting them to the private sector groups who can make the best use of them.
- Grant additional incentives to priority sectors, probably agriculture, which is the "cornerstone" of the recovery program.
- Improve the mechanism for channeling available capital resources to the private sector.

Virata spelled-out these basic policies for growth and stability in a speech read for him by deputy trade and industry minister, Jose Leviste Jr., concurrently Virata's secretary-general, at the Philippine Plaza Hotel in Manila.

According to Virata, the agricultural incentive and development act of 1985 will be immediately tackled by the Batasan Pambansa after approving the new election code. The measure seeks to provide the conceptual framework under which the present and prospective agricultural development in the country can be fitted.

"A set of incentives, organizational procedures to promote investment in agriculture incorporating fiscal credit and pricing incentives to the agricultural sector is provided for with special emphasis on small farmers and farmers cooperatives," Virata said.

Virata added that the program of organizational and institutional improvement for a more efficient sectoral management will be instituted when the agricultural incentives are already operational.

PLANNING MINISTER URGES USE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

HK011031 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 31 Oct 85 p 8

[Text] Economic Planning Minister Vicente Valdepenas Jr. said yesterday he expected businessmen to start availing themselves of credit facilities now available "within the next few months." He said businessmen have not been using the new loans now available to the private sector because of "the lethargy caused by the economic crisis."

"It takes them a little of bit of time to shake off (the effects of the economic crisis)," Valdepenas said. However, he said he was confident that businessmen would start borrowing from the new loan facilities made available to the private sector after the country successfully negotiated its loan restructuring agreements with its official creditors.

"We have so much money in our hands and we are trying to urge businessmen to use them," Valdepenas said. He did not elaborate. However, it was assumed that Valdepenas referred to the \$1-billion in foreign loans for the private sector which was committed to the Philippines but which remain unused.

While the Central Bank has committed to simplify its rules and regulations to speed up use of the loans by the private sector, private business sources said yesterday high inventories and the prevailing slack demand for goods and services remained the most formidable problems faced by businessmen.

The sources explained that various loan facilities available to the private sector remain untouched due to problems including high interest rates and stringent rules for their availment. Recently, the Central Bank opened its rediscounting window to certain industries to enable firms to avail of cheaper sources of funds to finance their projects.

LAUREL ON UNIDO PLAN FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

HK011025 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 31 Oct 85 p 28

[Text] The United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO) proposes to renegotiate the country's foreign debt as part of its seven-point alternative program for economic stabilization and recovery.

In a speech delivered before the Makati Business Club last week, UNIDO President Salvador Laurel also said his party's program provides for putting tighter controls on government spending and reducing government's hand in business. He added that the opposition party favors greater independence for the Central Bank and will stress efforts to check inflation and increase domestic production to meet the people's basic needs.

Regarding foreign debt, Laurel said a new government will have to renegotiate the country's foreign debt "based on a reasonable level of our capacity to pay."

The UNIDO president did not elaborate on what this meant; but he was apparently referring to the tack taken by new government in Peru which has taken the position that it will limit its repayments of foreign loans to only 10 percent of that country's foreign exchange earnings.

Laurel also said UNIDO favors limiting government spending to "a percentage of the national income" through a constitutional revision of the budget process. It proposes further to restore the power of the legislature to authorize the public debt. This would involve revoking the president's power to contract and guarantee foreign and domestic loans in behalf of the government.

UNIDO also advocates a "strong commitment to the wise and prudent use of the nation's scarce credit resources" to avoid "distortions of investment priorities." In this regard, Laurel said "government's presence in commercial banking should be curtailed and a rigid scrutiny, through periodic management audit of financial institutions, will be conducted."

The opposition party is battling for deregulation and the dismantling of monopolies that, Laurel said, have stifled private initiative, wasted resources and unduly concentrated wealth and power in the hands of a few. To avert the reemergence of private oligopolies, he said anti-trust laws should be put in place. He said further that UNIDO advocates giving the Central Bank the "powers and prerogatives it needs to maintain its independence of the executive and become truly the central monetary authority." This will also involve appointing more representatives from the private sector to the Monetary Board. UNIDO's program also aims to keep the inflation rate at a "manageable level" to ensure that the people's real incomes will be enough for decent living standards.

Laurel contrasted UNIDO's program to the stabilization and recovery program of the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party, saying that the KBL program "provides only for the recovery of the Marcos dictatorship...the foreign creditors...but absolutely not for the recovery of the Filipino people and the Philippines economy." He charged that the government is out to maintain its past policy of big public spending -- for purposes of political survival -- while shifting the burden of adjustment to private business and the poor.

Laurel said further that unlike the KBL -- which he said "spends far too much on defense...and on highly visible impact projects -- UNIDO will pump more money into food production, agriculture, land reform and social services. He added that the opposition party rejects the KBL's top-town planning approach and "trickle-down" development strategy; it opts for a "back-to-basics" development strategy which will stress attaining self-sufficiency in basic needs. UNIDO also oppose the KBL position that would "accelerate the pace of tariff removals" and favors instead giving local industries "adequate time" for phasing out of tariff and other forms of protection.

Laurel stressed, however, that "political emancipation" is the necessary precondition for economic recovery. Apart from a change of the present government, this will involve rewriting the Constitution to provide for the limitation and accountability of political power. To defuse social unrest, he proposed that a new government must proclaim a general amnesty for "all political offenders."

CARDINAL SIN CONFIDENT ABOUT BEATING NPA THREAT

HK030538 Hong Kong AFP in English 0527 GMT 3 Nov 85

[By Teodoro Benigno]

[Text] Manila, Nov 3 (AFP) -- Filipino Prelate Jaime Cardinal Sin today said he was confident the Philippines would roll back the communist threat to take over the country because its people would never exchange Christianity for a Marxist state.

The cardinal also said he was hopeful President Ferdinand Marcos would realize that salvation of the country was possible "only through the church" and that the president would eventually seek "the grace of God."

In a breakfast interview with the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, the 56-year-old archbishop of Manila said he was confident "something would happen in the near future" that would keep the country from going "closer to the precipice." The Philippines is facing a severe economic crisis and a growing insurgency by the New People's Army (NPA), the military wing of the banned Communist Party of Philippines.

The cardinal, long a thorn in the side of the 20-year-old Marcos regime, indicated that the president -- bitterly attacked here and abroad on allegations of rampant human right violations and accumulation of vast wealth -- could eventually repent and reform.

In expressing confidence the Philippines would roll back the communist threat to take over this predominately Roman Catholic country, the cardinal appeared to have pulled back from his gloomy foreboding on September 4, 1984 when he said:

"I feel that the people are already tired, I feel there are conversations going around in every corner of our country, in the barber shops, in the coffee shops, about civil war."

The cardinal is now confident that despite the NPA's growth from about 4,000 guerrillas in 1979 to an estimated 15,000 today, what will eventually prevent civil war and save the country is the Filipinos' "Abiding christian faith." The cardinal also said he had not met with Mr Marcos since their highly controversial embrace, after he said morning mass September 11 to highlight the president's 68th birthday anniversary at the sea-side Luneta Esplanade here.

He admitted being criticized for the "pastoral embrace," but explained he was both a "prophet of denunciation" and a "minister of reconciliation" and that Mr Marcos remained a member of his "Christian flock." Cardinal Sin also expressed his concern about Mr Marcos' reported deteriorating health and the possibility of "political disruption" if he should die or become incapacitated suddenly. The cardinal said U.S. officialdom was well aware of the dimensions of the escalating crisis in the Philippines, including the possibility that Imelda Marcos and a group of generals could snatch power should her husband die.

The cardinal, who told U.S. President Ronald Reagan in September last year in New York that the White House was an "oppressor supporting governments that are not just," said he was now concerned the U.S. might encourage a military coup to topple the Marcos government.

A formal announcement by Mr Marcos to step down at the end of his term in 1987 "would greatly defuse" the crisis, he said.

Many Filipinos contend such a presidential pledge would prevent a mad scramble for power among rival military and political blocs and possibly pave the way for a coalition government or "government of reconciliation" prior to the holding of national elections.

The cardinal as early as March 23, 1983, suggested setting up a "committee of national reconciliation" to propose solutions to the crisis with the church as the "tower of strength and hope for the citizens" of Asia's only Roman Catholic country. The president at the time curtly dismissed the proposed and in a subsequent interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE said the Catholic hierarchy had become "irrelevant" in the search for solutions to the Philippines' problems.

The cardinal's proposal followed one from murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino to Mr Marcos on October 20, 1979, to set up a "council of leaders." The council, comprising "members of undoubted national integrity," would have set up a transition government which would "restore democracy" January 1, 1983, with national presidential elections after Mr Marcos stepped down. Mr Marcos rejected the proposal.

Cardinal Sin also said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) would issue a pastoral letter early next year on the country's political, economic and social crises. He said the pastoral letter would go through several drafts and revisions to remove or substantially soften "confrontational" language to enable the church to help bind the nation's wounds in the spirit of the Christian gospel.

The CBCP's last strongly-worded statement was issued November 27, 1983, when the bishops said the Philippines was approaching "the brink of chaos and anarchy" and asked that the country "be placed above the petty and narrow interests of any political family or party."

Today the cardinal also recalled that on his recommendation last April 9, Mr Marcos viewed the film "The Scarlet and the Black," which demonstrated the power of the church over the occupying German Nazi forces in Italy during World War II. The cardinal reemphasized his hope that Mr Marcos would realize that his salvation and that of the Philippines could only be possible through the church.

COMMUNIST PAPER ADMITS GUERRILLA PROBLEMS

OW010803 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 1 Nov 85

[Text] Manila, Nov. 1 KYODO -- Philippine Communist guerrillas have public implied for the first time that rapid expansion of operations has brought them capitalist-style headaches over management, finances, staff attitudes, pay envelopes, professional jealousy and careless waste of supplies. The first admission of a need for management and personnel reforms was made known Friday in the October issue of ANG BAYAN (THE NATION), the banned monthly publication of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Central Committee. It said simple living, thrift and unhesitating maximum effort must be observed by all regular fighters, which it has previously placed at 12,000 nationwide, but which the Philippine military estimates at about 8,000.

President Ferdinand Marcos has repeatedly asserted that his military is winning the jungle and mountain war against the CPP's New People's Army (NPA) saying that communist rebels "are surrendering in droves." However, a planeload of foreign correspondents taken by the military to witness a mass surrender ceremony in the southern Philippines on Wednesday this week found themselves skeptical afterwards about government claims of mass defections.

The latest issue of the communist English-language monthly said: "Now that our struggle has grown by leaps and bounds, our needs have grown multifarious, they have become bigger, heavier and more extensive, and they have to be met." It said finance and logistics work has reached a relatively high level of development. Sources of funds are stable in the higher levels with ability to sustain each organizational level down to the individual soldier.

"What is more important, however, is for each party organ and unit, for each individual fulltimer in the basic units, to be self-reliant in their finances by relying on the extensive support of the masses and by creatively tapping all other sources of support," it said.

The journal criticized "the employee mentality of some (soldiers) who are seemingly paralyzed or become excessively unsettled when the party subsidy does not arrive on time or is less than they expect." It said some members become dependent on funds arriving from the party so they "no longer bother to tap or rely on the masses they are organizing."

Emphasizing the need for thrift, careful use of funds and standards for "simple living," it said some fulltime fighters are models of thrift. But it added: "even then, there remain some tendencies that must be set aright in the use of equipment and supplies. An example is the excessive use of ammunition."

REBELS REPORTED REDUCING OPERATIONS IN MINDANAO

HK040421 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 3 Nov 85

[Text] The communist New People's Army in northern Mindanao has started dismantling three fronts as the military anti-insurgency program in the region continues to make gains. The military reported to pacification of several barangays in northern Mindanao. Second Brigade commander, Colonel Miguel Sol, said 82 of the 356 barangays affected by insurgency have been won back by the government. Col Sol also said the military is stepping up operations against the NPA to forestall a reported communist plan to step up terrorism and attacks. He said a big group of rebels was reported massed in the mountains on the boundaries of Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga del Sur, ready to make a big NPA push. Sol's brigade operates against the NPA in Butuan and Surigao cities and the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, and Misamis Oriental.

ESCALANTE PROBE TEAM AMBUSH RUMOR DENIED

HK040425 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 3 Nov 85

[Text] The Negros Occidental CPC [Philippine Constabulary] provincial commander has denied reports of a sighting of groups of armed men believed to be massing to ambush the members of the Escalante fact-finding body in Sagay, a neighboring town, last Monday. A Manila-based reporter who filed the story on the incident through the PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY travelled with the Escalante fact-finding committee from Bacolod City to Escalante on October 27, the day the report of the sighting was made. The Negros Occidental PC commander, Colonel Arnulfo Obillos, denied the reported sighting and a copy of his report was furnished to the Defense Ministry. He also denied that the venue of the hearings has been transferred from Escalante to Bacolod City because of the sighting and that the venue would be the capital city, scheduled on November 28 and 29 as predetermined by the Secretariat.

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